

Gunmen kidnap 3 Germans

SIDON (Agencies) — Gunmen kidnapped four West Germans in South Lebanon Tuesday, three of them for the second time this month, but freed one woman an hour later, security sources and witnesses said. They said Petra Schmitzer, 24, was released southeast of Sidon at the headquarters of the Islamic grouping, a coalition of pro-Iranian fundamentalists. Witnesses said 10 gunmen seized Schmitzer, Heinrich Struëbig, 48, Marcus Quint, 24, and an unidentified colleague from the West German Asse Humanitas Relief Agency (AHRA) as they drove through Sidon. West German Ambassador Wolfgang Göttsche could not be reached for comment. On May 4, Struëbig, a 48-year-old administrator, and Schmitzer, a 26-year-old nurse were grabbed along with Quint by five unidentified gunmen on Sidon's southern edge. Police could not confirm reports that the third victim of Tuesday's abduction was Quint, freed from 10 days in captivity Sunday. No one claimed responsibility for the earlier abductions. Amal militia leader Nabih Berri brought Quint back to the organisation's headquarters Sunday. He refused to identify the kidnappers.

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Sultan Qaboos on three-day visit to Jordan King, Omani leader discuss Arab, international issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sai'd of Oman held talks Tuesday on Arab and international issues and voiced satisfaction with Jordanian-Omani relations and expressed interest in further enhancing and developing them.

Sultan Qaboos, who arrived here earlier in the day on a three-day visit, pledged Oman's support for Jordan and expressed pride in and appreciation of Jordan's positive role on the pan-Arab scene and in serving pan-Arab causes.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos stressed their interest in making the May 23-24 extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca a success and expressed hope that the summit would tackle all Arab issues, including the Palestinian question.

Both leaders voiced support for the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and independence.

They also emphasised the need for formulating a pan-Arab stand capable of enabling Lebanon to achieve national reconciliation and to find a way out of its ordeal.

They were also unanimous on the need for intensifying efforts to change the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq into a lasting peace.

The two leaders reviewed efforts to intensify collective Arab action and expressed confidence that closer Arab cooperation would materialise among the three Arab alliances — the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the

Arah Maghreb Union.

After reviewing global issues, the two leaders voiced satisfaction with the superpower detente and its positive impact on regional issues.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thounqan Hindawi, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's Special Advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taher Masri, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Information Minister Nasouh Majali, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh and the secretary general of the Royal Court.

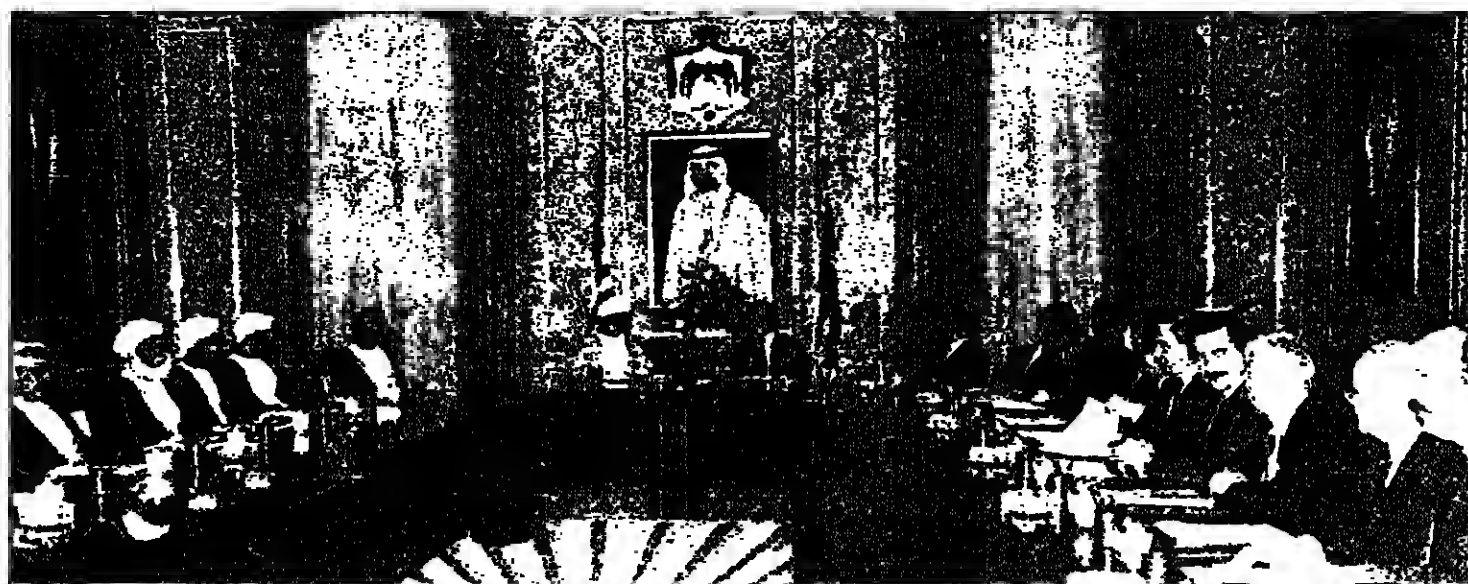
A high-level ministerial delegation accompanying Sultan Qaboos attended the meeting on the Omani side.

Upon his arrival here from

Kuwait earlier, Sultan Qaboos was received with full honours in a grand welcome ceremony attended by His Majesty, Prince Hassan, Sharif Zaid, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, cabinet members and other high-ranking officials.

Sultan Qaboos is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Al Zawawi, Chief of the Sultan's Court Saif Ibn Hamad Ibn Saud, head of the Sultan's office Ali Ibn Majed, the Sultan's Special Advisor for Religious and Historical Affairs Mohamad Ibn Ahmad Al Boursa'idi, Education and Youth Minister Yehya Ibn Mahfouz Al Munthiri, Information Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rawwas and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ibn Alawi.

Shortly after his arrival, Sultan Qaboos visited the tomb of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and laid a wreath there.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman Tuesday chair a meeting attended by senior officials from both sides (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Top Lebanese mufti assassinated

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A huge car bomb exploded in a crowded residential area of west Beirut Tuesday killing the religious leader of Lebanon's Sunni Muslim community and at least 15 other people.

Sheikh Hassan Khaled, the grand mufti of the republic and a moderate who had tried to reconcile Lebanon's warring factions, died as he drove home from his office in the Al-Bakr district.

His partly charred body and those of three of his bodyguards and his driver were pulled from his shattered black Buick car as dozens of rescue workers rushed other victims to hospitals.

Khaled, 68, was the top religious authority for over 700,000 Sunni Muslims in Lebanon and was known for his moderate policies and frequent attempts to bring together the country's rival factions.

He maintained close relations with several Arab leaders and

other Sunni spiritual heads around the Arab World.

Radio stations mourned Khaled as "Lebanon's martyr" and several Christian politicians quickly condemned his death as an ugly crime.

It was not known whether the car bomb aimed at him. Reporters at the scene said the explosion destroyed the fronts of buildings at a major road intersection. Several cars were set on fire.

It was the sixth car bombing in Lebanon this year. By police count, 28 people were killed and 218 wounded in the previous ones.

Eleven political leaders of the Sunni sect, including three former prime ministers, held a crisis meeting at Khaled's headquarters an hour after the explosion. Khaled's four sons also attended.

During the latest round of bloodshed which erupted March 8, Khaled made several calls for

King denounces killing, voices deep regret

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday denounced the assassination of Sheikh Hassan Khaled, mufti of Lebanon, and voiced deep regret over the death.

In a cable he sent to acting Lebanese Premier Salim Al Hoss, the King voiced deep regret over the killing of Sheikh Khaled: "It is with deep sorrow and grief that we received the tragic news of the assassination of Sheikh Hassan Khaled at the hands of people who have no fear for God and no mercy for Lebanon nor for its dedicated and faithful figures. While denouncing this ugly crime, we share with you the deep sadness and grief over the loss of a Muslim scholar and spiritual leader and pray to God to enable the sister Arab country to overcome its ordeal and to rebuild its national unity and put an end to the ongoing bloodshed," the King said. He called on Hoss to convey his condolences to the family and friends of Sheikh Khaled.

restraint, stressing that all problems could be solved through dialogue. He also had declared support for Arab League efforts to enforce a ceasefire.

Syria accused Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun of responsibility for the car bomb.

Syria's news agency SANA also quoted President Hafez Al Assad as saying the death of Sheikh Khaled was a blow to efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Military takes to Addis Ababa streets

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Air force jets and helicopter gunships swept over the capital of war-torn Ethiopia Tuesday as army tanks and armoured cars ringed key government buildings in an apparent dispute within the military high command.

A civilian employee inside the Ministry of Defence, where shooting broke out in late afternoon, told the Associated Press by telephone the trouble stemmed "from an apparent division" among top officers.

The employee, who spoke only on condition that he not be identified, said a measure of calm had returned by mid evening and the two sides were talking within the ministry in an attempt to resolve their differences.

Civilian and military employees were not allowed to leave the building after the trouble erupted and it was ringed by tanks, armoured cars and troops in what appeared to be defensive positions.

The trouble broke out several hours after President Mengistu Haile Mariam left Addis Ababa for a previously unannounced visit to East Germany. Sources said he took his family with him.

"I don't know what we've got, quite frankly," said a spokesman for the U.S. embassy. "We've got reports of some shooting in the city, but not a great deal of it."

"I cannot comment on what's going on," said Allen Collins, head of chancellery in the British embassy. "We are trying to make our own assessment and any comment would be premature."

Government sources, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said shooting broke out inside the Defence Ministry at about 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) just as employees were about to end their day. It could not be determined if there were any casualties.

Almost immediately, two air force MIG jet fighters began buzzing the city repeatedly and tanks, armoured personnel carriers and troops surrounded the ministry.

Later, tanks, armoured cars and soldiers took up positions outside other key government buildings, including the presidential palace, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information, which houses the government broadcasting station.

Israelis clamp down on workers from Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army, in an unprecedented move, ordered Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to leave Israel and return home Tuesday while troops made mass arrests in raids on several West Bank villages.

Sources said the iron-fist clampdown was intended to reassert army control two days after the cabinet adopted an initiative for elections in the occupied areas.

Troops also detained a leading Palestinian activist hours before he was to meet a senior U.S. State Department official.

Hundreds of Palestinians queued at the checkpoint to the crowded Gaza Strip, whose

650,000 residents were confined to their houses under an indefinite curfew imposed late Monday.

Police said they would arrest Gazans found in Israel and take them to the checkpoint. Israel radio broadcast appeals for employers to send home their workers from Gaza.

More than 60,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip work daily in Israel.

Under Israeli law, Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank are not allowed to stay in Israel overnight, but the law is widely skirted by workers who sleep in dormitories or their places of work.

In occupied Jerusalem, witnesses

reported seeing police checking the identities of Palestinians at major intersections and put those from Gaza in police vehicles for transport back.

At the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip, AP photographer Max Nash said hundreds of Palestinian workers were sitting on the ground under army guard.

He said most were brought to the area in Israeli taxis and then taken into Gaza to their homes by army trucks.

Also Tuesday, a Palestinian died of gunshot wounds sustained earlier in the week in a shootout with police. The death of Ali Mahmoud Muhammad Jabber, 23, raised to 480 the number of Palestinians killed in the uprising.

Israel pursues election plan despite Palestinian rejection

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders Tuesday shrugged off Palestinian rejection of a plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and urged Palestinians to take part in the vote.

Five leading Palestinians accused Israel of trying to sabotage their peace efforts by arresting a colleague before they met visiting U.S. State Department official Dennis Ross.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a 37-year-old cultural studies professor at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank, was taken by troops and secret police from his home

in Ramallah at 2 a.m. — hours before he was to have met Ross, his family said.

"We protested this action on the part of the Israeli government. We said that this was an attempt in fact to sabotage the meeting," Sari Nusseibeh, a leading nationalist activist said after the meeting.

"We insisted in any case on carrying on our meeting and we hope that the American delegation will present our protest to the Israeli government concerning the arrest," Nusseibeh said.

It was unclear whether Khatib, regarded as close to the Palestine

Communist Party, was detained to try to disrupt the U.S. dialogue with Palestinian figures.

U.S. officials invited Khatib and the five other Palestinians to meet Ross, the State Department policy planning director, to discuss the Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied areas to choose peace negotiators.

Nusseibeh said Palestinians favoured democratic polls but rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election proposal because it failed to ensure Palestinian statehood or a role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Deng, Gorbachev formalise new era amid clamour

PEKING (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and China's Deng Xiaoping normalised relations between the two communist states Tuesday, while outside their meeting hall tens of thousands of students and supporters chanted for democratic reform.

"We can take this opportunity to publicly announce the normalisation of Sino-Soviet relations," Deng said to applause from both Soviet and Chinese participants in the meeting.

The Deng-Gorbachev summit, in the red-carpeted eastern hall of the Great Hall of the People, brought together leaders of the two countries for the first time since a frosty encounter between Nikita Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung in 1959.

Relations since then have been marred by ideological rivalry, a 1969 border war, a sharp decline in economic and cultural contacts and strong Chinese opposition to Soviet actions in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

Deng also said the summit sig-

nified the normalisation of suspended relations between the communist parties of the two nations.

But Chinese leaders were clearly distracted from the long-planned diplomatic triumph by events at home that have left the ruling Communist Party founder and vulnerable.

For the second straight day Tuesday, Chinese authorities were forced into the humiliating position of having to change venues for Gorbachev's meetings because students clamouring for democratic reform had occupied Tiananmen Square and surrounded the adjacent Great Hall.

"China needs very much a peaceful environment externally and a stable environment internally. Only thus can we accomplish modernisation, a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted Premier Li Peng as telling Gorbachev.

"We do not think that liberty, democracy and human rights are a patent of capitalist countries," Li was quoted as saying, adding

that "China is prepared to perfect these aspects in its pursuit of political reform."

Students who have staged demonstrations, class boycotts and hunger strikes for the past month have accused the Chinese government of dragging its feet on political reform. Many have cited Gorbachev and his policy of glasnost as a model for China.

In a later meeting, Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang launched into an unusual defence of Deng, saying the party still needs his "wisdom and experience."

A handshake between Gorbachev and Deng ended the rift that shook the communist world and Deng declared: "End the past and open up the future."

That sentiment, with different goals, was echoed by thousands outside the Great Hall where the two leaders were meeting.

The crowds were drawn to the vast Tiananmen Square where a hunger strike, begun Saturday by about 2,000 students, has grown into huge protests.



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S. Arabia to consider European arms deals

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan will visit five European countries this month for possible arms purchases, Gulf-based diplomats said.

They said his tour of Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, France and Britain in the second half of May would also serve as a warning to the United States that Riyadh could seek more European-made weapons if Congress again cut the kingdom off from American arms.

Saudi Arabia is in the market for tanks, armoured vehicles and warships. Prince Sultan might also look at fighter jets in Europe, although military experts said Riyadh wanted to replace about 100 ageing Northrop F-5s with other U.S.-made planes.

The U.S. administration has notified Congress it intends this year to sell Riyadh 315 M1A1 Abrams tanks. General Dynamics sent two of the tanks for trials in Saudi Arabia in 1987.

Congress has blocked several arms sales to Saudi Arabia in recent years. Diplomats and military experts said that if Congress stopped the Abrams deal, the Saudis might purchase Britain's Challenger or another West



Prince Sultan

European tank.

"Continued unwillingness to approve Saudi arms sales requests is having lasting consequences," General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Central Command which includes the Gulf, told the Senate Armed Services committee last month.

"The United States has lost tens of billions of dollars in exports as well as associated domestic jobs," the general added, in reference to Saudi Arabia's \$20-billion arms deal with Britain last year after it was denied U.S. arms.

Though Prince Sultan, a younger brother of King Fahd, is only expected to make minor deals on his trip, he might revive talks on plans to acquire submarines.

The proposed purchase was put on hold, diplomatic sources said, after Saudi Arabia had contacted several West European manufacturers to explore the possibility of buying submarines.

PLO presses drive to join U.N. agencies

PARIS (R) — The State of Palestine this week renews its crusade for international recognition by seeking membership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

After the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed last week to gain admission to another U.N. agency, the World Health Organisation (WHO), seven mainly Islamic states have put the issue before Wednesday's meeting of UNESCO's executive board.

The WHO thwarted the PLO's first bid for full membership of a U.N. agency as delegates to its annual governing council, anxious to avert a clash with the United States, voted to defer a decision for a year.

The U.S. had said it would cut off annual contributions of more than \$90 million if the PLO, representing the State of Palestine declared last November, were made a member.

The United States left UNESCO in 1985 after clashes with former Director General Ahmadou-Mahtar M'bow.

Diplomats said the PLO membership controversy would hardly help efforts by M'bow's successor, Federico Mayor, to persuade the U.S. to rejoin and once again contribute its 25 per cent share of UNESCO's budget.

The State Department has said admission of the PLO would "seriously damage any prospect for resumed U.S. membership." Britain and Singapore also left after accusing M'bow of waste and politicising the agency.

The 50-member UNESCO board could recommend PLO admission by a simple majority, although only the full general conference of 158 states at the end of the year can formally accord membership. A two-thirds majority is needed there.

Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and North Yemen are pushing for the PLO's admission at the board meeting, according to UNESCO documents.

Western members, relieved at the outcome of the WHO meeting in Geneva, are hoping to repeat the compromise in Paris.

The board meeting represents Mayor's first major test since wresting power from M'bow in November 1987.

While he was carrying out programmes inherited from M'bow, Mayor could only make declarations of intent. Now he will be judged by what he delivers," one diplomat said.

Also before the board is Mayor's schedule of priorities up to 1986 and his plan for a reform of UNESCO's bureaucracy, a step urged by Britain before it quit in 1986.

ILO urges action in occupied lands

GENEVA (AP) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) warned Tuesday that tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would continue to grow unless the Israeli government takes swift action to halt an economic decline in these lands.

An ILO report said that since the start of the Palestinian uprising, living standards have dropped by 50 per cent, according to some observers, and that Israeli authorities cite a 30 per cent decline in economic activity.

The situation, the report said, led the Arab population of the occupied territories to organise a "resistance and survival economy" based on return to family agriculture. An ILO fact-finding team was told by residents that military authorities "seize any excuse to undermine this subsistence economy," it added.

The report, compiled for next month's annual conference of the ILO, said the material deprivation and lack of social and economic progress has caused "despondency... aggravated by the frustration of having no prospect of a more just and decent life."

It said the three-member ILO mission that visited the areas last February are "convinced that the continuing deterioration of the economic situation... can only increase tension and harden positions" and called for effective measures as soon as possible to halt the decline.

The report said the trade union situation in the occupied territories "continues to be a matter of extreme concern." It said that union rights may be temporarily restricted for serious reasons involving a country's security.

90 held after housing riots in Algerian town

ALGIERS (R) — Police arrested 90 people in connection with riots in the east Algerian town of Souk Ahras last Wednesday, an official statement said.

Sixty-nine of them were being held on remand and the rest were freed on bail, the public prosecutor in the provincial capital of Guelma said in the statement, reported by the official news agency APS.

The rioters, protesting against alleged favouritism in allocating housing, sacked public buildings and the homes of local officials and smashed windows and street lights.

The disturbances in Souk Ahras, 430 kilometres east of Algiers, were the worst in Algeria since up to 160 people were killed in Algiers and other cities last October during protests against economic hardship and political restrictions.

Party to change constitution
Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) will hold an extraordinary national congress

in October to adapt its constitution to a multiparty system.

The FLN central committee fixed the date for Oct. 28 to 30 at a meeting in Algiers Monday, APS reported.

The FLN controlled all political activity in Algeria from independence in 1962 until riots last October forced the government of President Chadli Benjedid to rethink the system.

Scores of new independent parties have sprung up this year but they do not yet have a legal status because the FLN remains on paper the only political organisation.

APS said the October congress would draw up a new political programme, amend the party constitution and elect new central committee members in the light of the amendments.

At a regular congress last November the FLN agreed to reduce its links with the state and turn itself into a broad front embracing different opinions. It did not, however, give a firm promise that a multiparty system was imminent.

Saudi paper blasts Iran in war of words over Haj

RIYADH (Agencies) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper, ending a seven-month lull in anti-Iranian invective, slammed Tehran Tuesday over signs that it will boycott the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca.

"Tehran's behaviour indicates that its rulers seem to have learned no lesson from the past," Al Nadwa paper said. "They insist on committing the same errors and ignoring Islamic and Saudi efforts to resolve inter-Muslim differences."

Iran has complained about restrictions on the July Haj to Mecca and Medina, including a quota of 45,000 Iranian pilgrims.

Gulf-based diplomats say Iran, which wants to send 150,000 pil-

grims, looks certain to boycott the pilgrimage for the second successive year.

Al Nadwa said quota limits, which apply to all countries, were agreed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) last year.

"Had Iran harboured good will it would have abided by the decision, taking into consideration that the behaviour of Iranian pilgrims was much to blame," the paper said.

More than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed during the 1987 pilgrimage in riots after an anti-Western demonstration by Iranians in Mecca.

"Since when were the staging of demonstrations, the hoisting of

pictures and political slogans, anarchy and killing, the basic principles of Haj... such behaviour is proof of stupidity," Al Nadwa said.

The Tehran newspaper Jomhuri Eslami accused the Saudis Monday of implementing U.S. policies.

The war of words is the first between the two countries since October, when relations appeared to improve. Riyadh broke diplomatic relations with Tehran in April last year, accusing Iran of terrorism and subversive acts.

Pilgrimage ministers of 45 Islamic countries are due to meet in the Red Sea port of Jeddah Wednesday.

Iran has rejected an invitation to the meeting, diplomats reported.

The diplomats said Iran was angry because Saudi Arabia was again sticking fast to the quota system.

Iran had been trying to exert pressure through third countries, especially Pakistan, for a larger Iranian contingent, this year, said the sources, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The Iranian daily Jomhuri reported Monday that the differences had almost been solved when "the Saudis rejected all previous agreements and started everything anew," the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Afghan government defies predictions of collapse

By Nassir Shirkhani
Reuters

KABUL — When the last Soviet soldier beaded home from Afghanistan three months ago, Mujahadeen rebels and their Western allies rubbed their hands and predicted a swift march to power in Kabul for the guerrillas.

"The Afghan government is like a building without girders. Most diplomats in Kabul say it could fall any time between now and July," said Charge d'Affaires John Glassman as he removed the stars and stripes from the U.S. embassy.

He then bade farewell to the chieftain of Kabul before the final Soviet pullout Feb. 15. The entire Western diplomatic corps packed up and followed him, citing security reasons in a city which they thought would soon become the Mujahadeen capital.

But the pro-Soviet government of President Najibullah has proved a tough foe ready to fight to the bitter end and shows no sign of falling.

For the guerrillas, victory has been elusive. They have found obstacles on the road to Kabul even without the Soviet troops who had helped prop up the government since 1979.

They set up a rival government and launched an offensive against the eastern city of Jalalabad in the hope of capturing it as a provisional capital within a short time of the Soviet pullout.

They took heart from initial gains but government troops, relying on air power, beat off the onslaught.

The rebels blundered by changing from guerrilla warfare to a conventional frontal attack without arranging for a unified command to direct their operations.

Kabul, the key to power, has itself been quiet despite the predictions of a security breakdown and the occasional rocket attacks from surrounding mountains providing sanctuary to the rebels. The rockets have failed to disrupt life and people pay them scant attention.

Few troops patrol the teeming streets of a capital whose largely Persian-speaking population is wary of the prospect of living under a government of predominantly Pashtun Mujahadeen.

Religious and linguistic differences have sapped whatever appetite there might have been for an uprising in support of the rebels. The most ardent opponents of the government have either left or simply been si-

lenced. Most residents cherish the idea of peace after 10 years of war which has claimed more than one million casualties and sent up to five million people to seek refuge in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

Najibullah has exploited the war weariness, offering to share power with the Mujahadeen and even pledging to step down if it brought peace to Afghanistan.

The offer was rejected by the Mujahadeen, who hold his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) responsible for all the misery of the war but it seems to appeal to the man-in-the-street.

"Now that blasphemy has left our country, the Afghans should sit down and find a solution," said a Kabul resident, referring to the Soviet forces.

Almost all Afghans, including some officials, resented the Soviet presence. But that element of unity in dislike has now disappeared and differences have come to the fore.

"I hope the war near Jalalabad will continue for the next 10 years because it only affects Sunnis who have suppressed us all along," said a Shi'ite Muslim Hazara.



Afghan government soldiers patrol Kabul streets (Sygma photo)

The Hazaras support the Persian-speaking Tajiks in seeking to break the traditional hold of the Pashtuns on power.

The PDPA has itself suffered from ethnic and linguistic problems, with the moderate Parchami and Khalq fighting for supremacy.

The two factions have buried their differences and closed ranks behind Parchami Najibullah in the face of the rebel threat. To ensure loyalty from

the army, the government picked ideologically-committed troops to defend Jalalabad and Kabul.

The army says it has emerged stronger since the Soviet withdrawal and senses no real threat from the Mujahadeen.

"We used to rely on Soviet troops. Now we have no choice but to stand on our own feet and fight to the end to avoid defeat," said General Ulumi, chief of the National Defence

Council.

More than half the soldiers fighting the Mujahadeen are PDPA members for whom defeat would mean death.

"We have to fight to the last drop of our blood if attacked," said soldier manning a checkpoint outside Kabul. "If the Mujahadeen win, we will all be executed. They will have to walk over our dead bodies to reach Kabul."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain to ease visa restrictions

KUWAIT (R) — Bahrain will start granting seven-day visas to foreigners living in the Gulf in order to promote tourism, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa was quoted Tuesday as saying. "We have already ordered this, but for certain reasons implementation was delayed for a while," he told Kuwait's Al Sayassah newspaper. He said foreign residents in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries arriving at Bahrain airport would be given seven-day visas renewable by hotels. Citizens of the GCC can enter Bahrain without visas but most foreigners had needed to get them outside the country. Sheikh Hamad said the change was designed to encourage tourism, boost the hotel industry, encourage commerce and strengthen Bahrain's position as a regional financial centre.

Libya invites British MP for talks

LONDON (R) — A British member of parliament said Monday Libyan authorities had invited him for talks in Beirut about the release of British hostages there. Opposition Labour parliamentarian Ron Brown made public a letter from the Libyan government to him, saying Tripoli would "do anything you recommend to secure the release of individuals held hostage." The letter expressed opposition to terrorism, and continued: "We invite you to visit Beirut to discuss your proposals with our local representative." Brown has previously tried to mediate on behalf of hostages in the Middle East. During a visit to Libya last September, he asked Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to use Tripoli's influence on Iran to secure the release of British captives in Beirut.

Kuwaiti travellers warned

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Monday issued a list of directives to its citizens urging them to look out for swindlers while on summer holidays abroad. The 20-point list issued by the Foreign Ministry told citizens not to carry large sums of money or jewellery and use credit cards as much as possible. The directives, reported by the Kuwait News Agency, also urged Kuwaitis not to leave shopping bags unattended, to consult a lawyer before signing any legal documents and keep an eye out for fake gems and products.

Kurdish rebels kidnap 20 villagers

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels kidnapped 20 villagers and set fire to cars with flame-throwers in raids in southeast Turkey, security sources said Tuesday. They said 40 rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) led the villagers away at gunpoint in Siirt province Monday night. They clashed briefly with troops trying to mount a rescue operation. At the same time, a second band of PKK rebels attacked cars with guns and flame-throwers in Sirnak town, 30 kilometres from the Iraqi border, and then escaped. The PKK has in the past abducted young men to try to recruit them as fighters in its guerrilla war for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds. More than 1,300 people have been killed since the PKK launched the war in 1984.

Armitage meets senior Egyptian officials

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. under-secretary of defence arrived Tuesday and immediately met with President Hosni Mubarak on military cooperation and bilateral relations, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The agency said Richard Armitage met separately with Youssef Sabri Abn Taleb, Egypt's defence minister. Armitage is in Cairo as head of a delegation to the annual meeting of the American-Egyptian military coordination committee.

Cairo court convicts 7 in spy case

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has sentenced three Libyans and four Egyptians on charges of spying and plotting to overthrow the Cairo government. The three Libyans, tried in their absence and identified as officers in the intelligence service, were jailed for life and fined 5,000 Egyptian pounds (\$2,000) each. They were named as Al Hadi Mohammad Khidir, Youssef Abu Hella and Mohammad Saad. The Libyans were accused of recruiting the four Egyptians in September 1981 and training them to blow up government buildings inside Egypt to foment trouble. The Egyptians were arrested in January 1987 before any sabotage was attempted. Businessman Mahmoud Abdul Shafi was jailed for 10 years, schoolteacher Hassan Othman Taha for two years and the other two for a year each. Each was fined 1,000 pounds (\$400).

Saudi justice minister resigns

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's minister of justice, Ibrahim Ibn Mohammad Al Sheikh, resigned from his post for health reasons, according to a royal decree late Monday. The minister will be succeeded by Mohammad Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Jubair who has been named acting minister of justice in addition to his cabinet-level post of chairman of the grievances court, the decree said. The decree, distributed by the Saudi Press Agency, said King Fahd accepted the resignation at Al Sheikh's request, and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the outgoing minister for his dedicated services. Sheikh has been reported in bad health in recent years, said officials who know him.

David Waite comforts family of missing Briton

LONDON (AP) — The brother of missing Church of England envoy Terry Waite lent support Tuesday to relatives of an elderly British man feared kidnapped in Beirut. David Waite, whose brother disappeared more than two years ago in the strife-torn city, met relatives of Jack Mann on a television show and told them that talking helps. "Just to be able to have close friends that you can talk through the situation with — I think you will find this great help," he told the stepdaughter and brother-in-law of Mann, who disappeared Friday. Jennifer Mitchell and Glyn Pritchard appeared on the breakfast-time commercial station TV-AM after asking to meet others in the same situation. Mann, whose wife Sunny remains in Beirut, left his apartment Friday to go to the bank but never returned. Police found his car parked in a west Beirut street, and a group calling itself the Cells of Armed Struggle claimed it abducted him.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:25 Programme on arts
17:50 Programme on world news
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:15 Cairo News Message
18:45 Local programme
19:15 Common mistakes
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Wrestling
22:30 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Piques Assiettes
18:30 Des Chiffres En et Lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Anjouard'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Life with Lucy
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Poor Little Rich Girl

PRAYER TIMES

06:04 Fajr
05:37 Sunrise/Dhuhr
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr

CHURCHES

19:31 Maghreb
21:00 Isha

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianita Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Armenian International Church Tel. 653326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
Babylon Congregation Tel. 822603
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight drop in temperatures will occur; even though, temperatures will

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

remain above the annual average. Winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 15/29
Aqaba 28/39
Dead Sea 17/36
Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 43. Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Abbad 778559
Dr. Walid Al Saadi 683266
Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 896294
Dr. Hisham Kanaan 790877
First pharmacy 651912
Furber pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637053
Nairowah pharmacy 626272
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644943

NIGHT DUTY

Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 824402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 638321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230

SHMEISANI PHARMACY

Dr. Nabil Abu Al Oia (-)
Al Shama' pharmacy (985236)

ZARQA:

Dr. Izid Dina Abdul Salam 983417
Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 63041
Rescue 63041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

CENTRAL AMMAN TELEPHONE

Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 66722/19
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirra 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Arny, Marka 891611/15
Queen Abla Hospital 602403/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

ZARQA NATIONAL HOSPITAL

Jbn Sina Hospital (09)986732
URBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Jbn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department in the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
10:10 Damascus (RJ)
10:10 Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:15 Larana (RJ)
17:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:00 Riyadh (RJ)
18:05 Paris (RJ)
18:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
18:45 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
20:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
21:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
01:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:40 Rome (AZ)
13:00 Benghazi (LN)
13:15 Baghdad (IA)
14:30 Sana'a, Jeddah (TV)
17:25 Kuwait (SV)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
21:45 Tripoli, Damascus (PE)
01:00 Tunis (TU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Aqaba (RJ)
11:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
20:15 Calcutta (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Damascus (RJ)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 500/400
Banana 350/300
Banana (Muskanna) 300/250
Beans 300/260
Broad beans 180/140
Cabbage 80/50
Carrot 140/100
Cauliflower 130/100
Cucumber 300/200
Dates 200/100
Eggplant 120/100
Garlic 240/200
Lemon 480/400
Lettuce (per one) 100/80
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 250/200
Orange 300/200
Onion (dry) 70/50
Onion (green) 100/80
Peas 200/150
Pepper (hot) 100/80
Pepper (sweet) 200/150
Potatoes 240/200
Tomatoes 120/100



1st blind man sits MA oral

IRBID (J.T.) — A panel of professors from Yarmouk University Tuesday discussed a thesis by a blind Jordanian student in Arabic language for which he hopes to obtain a Masters degree.

The post graduate student, Ghaleb Freihat, is the first blind student to submit a thesis for a post graduate degree at any of the Jordanian universities, according to a university spokesman.

The spokesman said that the thesis which is in five chapters tackles contemporary scientific and technical terms in the Arabic language. The student submitted proposals for the creation of a specialized Arab language school in charge of scientific terms. Among those present at the panel discussion were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad bin Zaid, who is president of the Jordanian Friends of the Blind Society, University President Mohammad Hamdan and a large group of deans from Jordanian universities.

Soviet team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Soviet Academy of Sciences (SAS), headed by its Deputy Director General Bogatkov Oleg Alekseevich, arrived in Amman Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan upon an invitation by the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST).

The delegation will meet with senior officials from the HCST

and will tour a number of scientific research institutions, universities and leading industrial institutions.

The delegation will also conclude a scientific and technical cooperation agreement with the HCST and will draft protocols of cooperation between the SAS and the HCST in the fields of science and technology, renewed energy and environmental protection.

7 Arab countries to establish regional informatics network

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and six other Arab countries have agreed on establishing a regional informatics network which will launch cooperation with similar networks to be established in the Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The announcement was made by Dr. Youssef Nusseir Tuesday upon the conclusion of a three-day sub-regional meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to discuss the prospects of such network in scientific and technological fields.

The delegates reviewed six working papers on the matter and a general report on the use of computers in the Arab World.

Nusseir who is director of the RSS's computer department said that a working paper will be

presented to a regional conference on informatics network which will be held shortly, and another to be organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Delegates representing Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Syria and Egypt took part in the conference which was organized by the Higher Council for Science and Technology in cooperation with UNESCO.

Several regional and international organizations attended the meeting. According to Nusseir, the following countries will benefit from the proposed networks: Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and Sudan. The three centres that would serve as the network's nucleus will be those of the RSS and two others in Egypt and Syria.

ARABIC FESTIVAL: The Jordan Academy of Arabic has opened its seventh cultural festival, which is expected to last until June 10. The festival includes seminars and lectures dealing with educational, health, cultural and scientific topics and the process of Arabising foreign terms used in agriculture and other sciences. Scholars and intellectuals from Egypt, Syria and Jordan will deliver lectures (Petra).



LATEST TECHNOLOGIES: A scientific seminar was held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday in which Mr. Amr Al Sayed, the clinical products specialist for Kodak Near East Inc., introduced the latest developments in the dry chemistry technology represented by Kodak Ektachem blood analysers and also recent advances in the field of biological diagnostics represented by the sure cell test kits which are self-testing kits for pregnancy, strep A, chlamydia, herpes, AIDS and gonorrhea. Murad Technical & Trading Est., Kodak dealers in Jordan hosted the seminar (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tunisiyyeh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- An exhibition of ceramics and silk flowers entitled "Amman Embedded in the Heart" by Sana' Al Asir at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- An art exhibition by Aziz Ammoura at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lwehdeh.
- An exhibition entitled "Grand Projects for the State: 1979-1989" at the French Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of chemical industries and scientific experiments at Umm 'Amara Secondary School, Irbid.
- A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 aerial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alka Gallery.

FILMS

- A French film entitled "Les Trois Couronnes du Matelot" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- A programme entitled "Archaeology on Screen" in which three videos are shown under the titles: "Life and Death in Ancient Egypt," "The Father of Pots: Sir Flinders Petrie" and "Looking at Historic Sites," at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan pays tribute to ICO

Caritas president ends visit

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — President of the International Caritas Organisation (ICO) Cardinal Alexandre do Nascimento Tuesday wound up a four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

The cardinal held talks with Jordanian officials on the implementation of socio-economic projects in the country with help from ICO, and inspected a number of Caritas centres around the Kingdom. One of the cardinal's meetings was with Mohammad Suqur, the Ministry of Social Development's secretary general who paid tribute to ICO for its philanthropic activities around

the world in general and its assistance to Jordan in particular.

The ministry maintains strong ties of cooperation with ICO in implementing different projects benefiting people in rural and urban regions of Jordan. Suqur noted.

The cardinal said that the ICO aims at helping the needy and helping to solve socio-economic problems around the world through its contributions to various projects.

He expressed Caritas's appreciation to the Ministry of Social Development for facilities and cooperation to help carry out its

projects and vocational training programmes in Jordan.

According to Jordan Caritas Director Mousa Adeli, the cardinal reviewed with Jordanian officials the implementation of projects in Mafrag Governorate for which Caritas will contribute JD 187,000. Adeli said that Jordan Caritas operates handicraft and vocational training centres in Amman and a number of Jordanian towns and has contributed JD 100,000 to a project carried out by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund to establish welfare centres in Madaba and neighbouring towns.

Experts discuss Mideast rural changes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fifteen Arab and French researchers are gathering here Wednesday to discuss the various modernisation and urbanisation trends of the Middle Eastern Arab World including the effect of migration on rural areas within the framework of economic and political developments.

The workshop, entitled "Rural Changes in the Middle East," due to open Wednesday, is sponsored by the Centre of Studies and Research in the Contemporary Middle East (CERMOC) and by the Arab Thought Forum, in cooperation with the French Studies and Documentation Centre on Law, Economics and Social Sciences (CEDES) in Cairo and the French Institute for Arabic Studies (IFEAD) in Damascus.

Tours University Professor Jean Francois Troin will open the workshop on Wednesday and will present a paper entitled "From the Village to the City: Growth and Changes. The paper is a case study from Morocco. CEDES sociologist Francois Ireton will follow with "Socio-Economic Evolution in Upper Egypt (1961-1981)." Another French researcher, geographer Sylvie Fanchette will then present a paper on "The Nile Delta during the Infatrah Era."

Two Jordanian researchers are also scheduled on Wednesday. Sociologist Suleiman Sweiss will discuss, "The Crisis of the Rural Areas in Jordan," and Yarmouk University's Sarha Ghannam will discuss, "The Political Leadership and Changes in the Rural Areas in Jordan."

The remaining three papers will concentrate on "The Nubians in Egypt," by anthropologist Frederique Fogel, "A Village in Lebanon: case study," by CERMOC geographer Souha Taraf, and "Rural Changes in the Syrian Jezira," by IFEAD historian Christian Velud.

The second day will begin with two papers on Saudi Arabia. King Abdul Aziz University Geographer Said Kahtani will present a paper entitled, "Agricultural Development in Saudi Arabia Today." An urbanist at King Fahd University in Dhahran, Jacques Zahar will follow with a paper on, "Urbanisation of Al Qatif Oasis."

Ali Faour, a geographer from the Lebanese University, will then discuss, "Rural Migrations in Southern Lebanon." Three papers on Jordan, delivered by French researchers, will follow.

Lyon University ethnologist Michele Biewers will present a "Case Study: A village in Jordan; CERMOC political scientist Brigitte Curmi will present a paper on "the Health

Conditions in the Rural Areas Towards an Open Society," and CERMOC ethnologist Anna Ouhannessian will tackle "Social Changes in Bedouin Life of the Jordan Valley."

The final paper will be presented by another IFEAD French researcher, ethnologist Olivier D'hont on "The Euphrate Bedouin: Return to Badia?"

Except for Kahtani's and Ghannam's papers, which will be presented in Arabic, all the working papers will be in French.

CERMOC has been working since 1977 towards enhancing the understanding on how Arab societies evolve, with special attention paid to the rural changes in the Arab World and the process of urbanisation and related problems. In the past 12 years, CERMOC has published 15 books on matters related to the development of Arab society.

The centre first started its work in Beirut, only to have its activities interrupted in 1983. In 1988 CERMOC was forced to cease all activities and the scientific council decided to relaunch its activities from a branch in Jordan.

CERMOC director in Jordan, Dr. Marc Laverne, who will also be moderating the workshop, said that cooperation between French and Arab researchers is crucial, "since we all live around the Mediterranean and we should know and learn from each other."

Qatanani receives U.N. fact-finding mission

AMMAN (Petra) — A fact-finding team representing the United Nations press office had a meeting here Tuesday with the director of the Foreign Ministry's department for Palestinian affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatanani to discuss the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories.

Qatanani briefed the visitors on the development of the Palestinian problem, Israel's repressive measures practiced against the Palestinian people under occupation, and Israel's human rights violations.

Qatanani also spoke about the continued closure of Arab educational institutions and the detention of thousands of Arab people during the past 18 months of the intifada.

Qatanani also outlined the main activities of his department and assistance provided to the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan.

The fact-finding mission, which arrived here Monday, on a four-day stay in the course of a Middle Eastern tour, is led by Dr. Mahmoud Al Sa'ad who said that in Jordan and talk to representatives of the Palestinians in the course of their investigations into Israel's practices.

Naour ponders cooperative

MADABA (Petra) — Heads of development units within the Naour region held a meeting Tuesday to discuss development schemes to be implemented in the second half of 1989.

The district governor who chaired the meeting said that the units strive to set up an agricultural cooperative society to support the agricultural sector in the Naour district and to set up a dairy processing plant. Contacts over these projects have been made with the ministries of Industry and Trade, and Agriculture, the district governor said.

He said that the units have submitted a request to the Naour Al Hussein Foundation to help set up a handicraft centre to employ local women in crafts that would help improve the living standards of their families.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salim Masa'adeh (right) Tuesday receives Arab Interior Minister's Council Secretary General Akram Nashaat Ibrahim (centre) at the Interior Ministry (Petra photo).

Masa'adeh receives Ibrahim

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of security matters of concern to the Arab World and the implementation of resolutions taken by the Arab Interior Ministers' Council were discussed here Tuesday by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'adeh and Akram Nashaat Ibrahim, who arrived here Monday evening to attend a three-day meeting by the heads of anti-narcotics bureaus in the Arab World, discussed the council's

role in cooperation among Arab states in security affairs and reviewed the council's activities during 1989.

Masa'adeh and Ibrahim also discussed the three-day meeting's agenda; and the interior minister expressed hope that the meeting will yield fruitful results to contribute towards further inter-Arab cooperation.

Ibrahim later met at the Ministry of Interior with its secretary general Salem Qudah for a simi-

lar discussion.

Delegates from 15 Arab countries are taking part in the three-day meeting which, according to Ibrahim, is designed to help Arab countries ensure more security and deal with the challenges posed to the Arab Nation by its enemies.

The meeting is being held here for the first time after the Arab League had decided that Amman should house the council's headquarters.

Majali: Drug menace threatens all nations

Arab anti-narcotic chiefs discuss drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 15 Arab countries opened a meeting here Tuesday to discuss ways of combatting drug trafficking, the adverse effects of narcotics on health and inter-Arab cooperation to stem drug addiction in the Arab World.

Their respective countries are meeting in implementation of a resolution by the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

The council's Secretary General Akram Nashaat Ibrahim addressed the meeting, pointing out that drugs do not only cause mental and bodily harm but lead to the destruction of human values and tend to demoralise people and create a climate for criminal activity.

Ibrahim outlined the council's activities and programmes in general and underlined the importance for Arab countries to implement a pan-Arab strategic security plan which was endorsed by the council at its last meeting.

Ibrahim said that cooperation among Arab states in combatting drug trafficking and addiction has become more feasible now with the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council which are bound to help boost cooperation in economic and social fields.

The opening session of the three-day meeting was addressed by Public Security Department PSD Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali who called for intensive inter-Arab and international cooperation in combatting drug trafficking.

Drugs are among the most sinister problems that threaten mankind and the future generations in all countries of the world, and Arab states are no exception, Majali noted.

He said that although drug addiction is relatively at a low level in Arab countries, the danger cannot be far away in view of the fast transportation facilities and open trade among various nations.

Referring to Jordan's endeavours to combat drug trafficking and addiction, Majali said

that his department has been intensifying its cooperation with organisations in Arab and other countries, and has introduced new measures in this concern.

The PSD has opened anti-narcotics branches in various provinces, and is employing police dogs, and police helicopters to track down smugglers and drug traffickers who infiltrate into Jordanian territory to peddle their illicit products.

Jordan has foiled numerous attempts at trafficking drugs, thanks to cooperation among police departments in the Arab World and the diligent efforts of the PSD branches around the country, Majali noted.

The delegates, all heads of anti-narcotics departments in

Conference discusses solar energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in an international conference on energy systems which opened Monday discussed a total of 14 working papers on energy related matters and ways to employ energy in social and economic development areas during Tuesday's sessions.

The papers dealt in part with the employment of hot air to dry agricultural crops and the use of solar power to heat the air for that purpose. One of the papers

was presented by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) dealing with photovoltaic systems to general electrical energy for the development of remote areas which are far from the electricity network and other conventional energy sources.

The participants later toured the RSS's experimental grounds and examined solar power projects.

The conference, which is attended by more than 100 spe-

cialists and engineers was opened here Monday by acting Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Adnan Badran who outlined Jordan's endeavours to prospect for oil and various forms of energy resources.

The conference will review 31 working papers dealing with energy resources with special focus on the use of solar and wind power as alternative sources of energy.



Kerak castle (File photo)

More riches at Kerak castle

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

KERAK castle, located adjacent to the modern town of Kerak, can easily be acknowledged as the single most historically significant site in Jordan from the Late Islamic period. In this era, which expands from the 12th through the 20th centuries, the castle was the pivotal administrative, economic, and defensive centre within the settlement pattern of southern Transjordan.

Although most often cited as a crusader fortress, much of Kerak castle, as it stands today, was built during the Ayyubid and Mamluk eras, as documented by substantial architectural features. Although not reflected in the present architecture of the site, the importance of Kerak continued into the Ottoman period during which time it played a major role in the administration

of Transjordan. One of the principal constructions reflecting the Islamic history of Kerak is a place complex located on the upper level of the castle, between the crusader church and the massive donjon at the southern edge of the castle.

In June 1987 the palace was selected for investigation during a one-week field project that consisted of preliminary architectural study and a small archaeological test trench that was located in the palace reception hall. The original plaster floor of the reception hall was found intact and the numismatic evidence from beneath the floor demonstrates that the structure is a 14th century Mamluk construction.

Two phases of deposition were present above floor: Phase I, dating to the Mamluk period, and Phase II, reflecting Ottoman

occupation. Thus, while the palace was originally constructed and occupied during the Mamluk period, it was reused by the Ottoman garrison that first arrived in Kerak during the early 16th century.

As a rural town within the Mamluk empire, Kerak reached its height of sophistication in the 14th century, during the last reign of Sultan Al Nasir Mohammed, for historical sources state that in A.D. 1311 Kerak was embellished with a number of urban institutions, including a palace, mosque, bath, school, khan, hospital, and public park.

As a result of the 1987 excavations the palace can be identified as the only Mamluk palace in Transjordan and can be attributed to the era of Sultan Al Nasir Mohammed on the basis of historical records.

Jordan Times

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Shamir's ploy

WHILE the election idea projected for the West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be gaining currency at the superpower level and receiving conditional acceptance from the Palestinian side, it must be immediately distinguished from the Israeli election scheme which is nothing more than a reshuffle of the Camp David Accords. It is worth noting that while the U.S. is expressing guarded support to the election idea as such, it has not fully subscribed to the Shamir election formula. Likewise the Soviet Union has completely dissociated itself from the Israeli election proposal, describing it as dangerously flawed, woefully deficient and wantonly lacking in scope and direction. Meanwhile, the PLO has officially rejected the Shamir election plan and described it as ridiculous. And concurrently with its categorical rejection of the Shamir election ideas, the PLO maintained its conditional acceptance of the principle of conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip including, occupied Jerusalem, provided they are carried out under U.N. supervision and have the potential of granting the Palestinian people under occupation the full and complete opportunity to exercise unqualified self-determination including the opportunity to create their own separate state in the occupied territories if they so wish.

One would presume that all the forces genuinely working on the side of peace in the Middle East, including the superpowers, know only too well that for any elections to be meaningful in the West Bank and Gaza Strip they must be free and under neutral supervision. Equally valid is the proposition that the PLO cannot be excluded from the election process as Shamir appears to be aiming for. The PLO has been internationally accepted, as has long been the case in the Arab World, as the representative of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with full authority and mandate to make lasting commitments on their behalf. To attempt at this late hour to jump over the PLO makes one wonder about the real intentions and purposes of the Shamir plan. And when the exclusion of the PLO is considered in conjunction with the Israeli ipso facto rejection of the Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and with the added Israeli condition that the projected election be conducted only when calm is restored to the occupied territories, one can be sure that the Shamir's model for elections is only a ploy to gain time and pull the rug from under the Palestinian intifada. Accordingly, unless international pressure especially superpower pressure can be applied on Israel in order to conduct fair and free elections in the territories in question with a view to give the Palestinians under occupation a real opportunity to exercise self-determination in all its dimensions, then there is no redeeming value in the election scheme. If such persuasion, when applied on Israel, fails to deliver the conditions that are fair and balanced for the election idea, then the international community, especially Washington and Moscow, are duty bound to bring back the international conference idea from the back burner.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily welcomed a visit here by Sultan Qaboos of Oman which starts Tuesday and said that it will further bolster links among Arab states. The paper said that the talks between Qaboos and King Hussein are expected to cover pan-Arab affairs, the Middle East question and bilateral relations in a brotherly atmosphere designed to boost solidarity among Arab brothers. Needless to say that the present moment is most opportune for strengthening Arab ties prior to the coming summit and in view of the current situation in Lebanon, the occupied Arab lands and in the face of common challenges, the paper noted. It said that the need now is to create a favourable atmosphere for the Arab leaders to decide on joint efforts and steps that would further strengthen Arab stands. The paper said that Qaboos and King Hussein working together with their Arab brothers have succeeded and will succeed this time once again in boosting the Arab image and cementing Arab ties at all levels.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on a government decision reached with the United Nations Development Programme under which the latter will assist Jordan develop its public administration system. Tawfiq Al Khallil says that no one knows yet whether the U.N. will provide help to Jordan free of charge or whether the treasury will be forced to foot the bill which is JD 700,000. The writer expresses his dissatisfaction with the decision because it provides for foreign specialists to come to Jordan and help the country reform its public administration system. The writer says that Jordan is abundant with fully qualified people and experts who can introduce reform and improve public administration and he cites the work over the past few years conducted by the Royal Commission entrusted with overhauling the civil service system in Jordan. The writer says Jordan needs no technical help in this respect and the government ought to look for the right people for the job and to give them the proper facilities and freedom to work.

Al Dustour daily commented on the prime minister's statements to a delegation representing the Ma'an Governorate. The prime minister has urged the people of Ma'an, where the recent riots took place, to cooperate with the government and help carry on the process of development and construction, said the paper. It noted that this message is directed to all governorates whose cooperation with the government under the present circumstances is crucial. But Ma'an has a special responsibility being the base of the Great Arab Revolt in the Kingdom and the station where the late King Abdullah launched his war of liberation. The paper referred to the demands and the requests presented to the government at the meeting which concern improvements of health and educational services and employment of the Ma'an citizens in the local industrial projects. The paper said that these demands were on the mind of King Hussein when he directed the new government to take up its duties and that the government will no doubt strive to carry out the Royal directives.

Peronism wins — but can it work?

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — Argentines have chosen a charismatic populist, Carlos Menem, to lead them out of hyperinflation and bankruptcy under the banner of a political movement with a track record of disaster.

Presidential elections on Sunday resulted in a landslide victory for Menem, candidate of a party that was founded by Juan Peron in the 1940s and blended elements of Italian fascism with fervent nationalism in a system based on state domination.

Like the late Peron, Menem enjoys strong backing from labour unions, and in his victory speech he vowed to "put an end to this Argentina where those who do nothing live well while those who work every day of the year live badly."

The return of Peronism was hastened by widespread popular desperation in a country where inflation now runs at an annualised 24,000 per cent, the national currency has lost 80 per cent of its value since February, shortages of consumer goods are common, and public services are floundering.

Argentina bailed payments on its \$60 billion foreign debt a year ago.

Menem has promised to cure Argentina, once one of the world's richest countries and now the sick man of Latin America, with a "productive revolution."

He has said wage increases for workers are to fuel the locomotive that is to pull Argentina out of its economic morass.

In campaign speech after campaign speech, he said production and consumption would be boosted by easy credit.

Details of how this can be achieved have been left vague and his opponents, alluding to his campaign slogan for "follow me," portrayed him as a pious piper intending to lead the nation back to discredited Peronist policies of the past.

Juan Peron first took office in 1946 and started a spree of profligate spending that emptied the government's coffers, hulking with export earnings from wheat and meat. Then, the country was the world's eighth-biggest economy.

By 1955, when he was ousted in a military coup, the reserves were exhausted — and so was the

national pension fund on which he drew to finance public spending and by continued popularity.

At its height, Peron and his second wife Evita were venerated almost as saints by millions of poor Argentines.

Sent into exile by the military, Peron made a triumphant return in 1973 and took over the presidency again. The country soon degenerated into chaos and violence that his third wife Isabel, who succeeded him on his death, was unable to halt.

She was deposed by the military in 1976, at the beginning of seven years of brutal military dictatorship which murdered thousands of Argentines.

Political analysts attributed part of Menem's success to "punishment votes" against President Raul Alfonsín, who restored democracy after the 1976-83 dictatorship but failed to halt a

50-year decline in living standards.

In the economic turmoil preceding the elections, Alfonsín's greatest achievement was almost forgotten — he will be the first elected president to hand over office to the elected president of another party in the 178-year history of Argentina.

Menem has said he would reshape the Peronism to adapt it to the requirements of the late 20th century. But his detractors insist his hands will be tied by the trade unions which backed him in internal party primary elections last year.

He beat Antonio Cafiero, leader of a reform movement inside the Peronist Party which wanted to soften its tendency towards paternalism and reduce the power of union bosses.

"Menem signifies the return to old Peronism," Argentine writer

Jacobo Timmerman wrote after the party primaries.

"Scandals with women, close ties with the Paraguayan dictator General Alfredo Stroessner, inability to formulate a national plan, confusion and contradiction in an electoral platform... participation of Nazi organisations in the innermost circle, collaboration with ex-terrorists of the left, a powerful influence of trade union mafias."

In a speech two days before the elections, Alfonsín said that the price Argentina had paid for its return to democracy was too high to be gambled away by "facile messiahs."

Diplomats said Menem's triumph underscored the enduring appeal of populists not only in Argentina but Latin America as a whole at a time when most of its countries face their worst economic problems in half of a century.

Argentina's next president

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Flamboyant Argentine governor Carlos Menem looks set to adopt the mantle of Peronist founder Juan Peron after leading the party to a resounding victory in Sunday's general elections.

A 58-year-old lawyer with a passion for fast cars and beautiful women, Menem will succeed President Raul Alfonsín on December 10.

In a victory speech to a crowd in his native city of La Rioja, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires, Menem quoted his two favourite authorities, Peron and the Bible, to set out one of the priorities of his future administration.

"Peron used to say that to create jobs is to govern and we will make that premise a reality, the jobs that will make the biblical phrase come true — you will earn your bread with the sweat of your brow," he said.

"We will finish with this Argentina where those who do nothing live well and those who work every day of the year live badly."

Menem, whose parents were Syrian-born, will be Argentina's first president not of Spanish or Italian stock. His wife, Zulema Yoma, is a Muslim but he is a devout Roman Catholic.

Menem will take the Peronists back into the Casa Rosada, the pink government house from

which Peron addressed mass rallies, 13 years after their last government was thrown out by a military coup.

He insists Peronism is not a political party but a multi-class movement embracing workers, businessmen, intellectuals, students and nationalist military personnel.

Alberto Kohan, one of his campaign managers, said: "Menem is the leader Peronism lost 15 years ago (when Peron died)."

Menem has governed La Rioja since Argentina returned to democracy in 1983 after eight years of military rule.

During the campaign he invoked God at least 10 times per speech, in a manner which political analysts likened to that of television Evangelists who in recent years have gained ground in Latin America.

He favours the orthodox Peronist doctrine espoused by Argentina's powerful trade unions, a form of nationalism which calls for a "humanised capitalism."

His economic programme was packaged for the campaign in a vague slogan, "the productive revolution," which proposes to encourage output and consumption by raising wages and offering easy credit terms to businesses.

Menem has said he plans to seek a five-year grace period

from foreign creditors on Argentina's \$60-billion debt.

His head off military unrest, he wants to re-equip the restless armed forces and to produce arms for export.

In 1987 Menem was re-elected La Rioja's governor until 1991. He had held the post from 1973 to 1976 during the last Peronist government. He spent five years under arrest, without being charged, during the 1976-1983 military regime.

Under Menem's administration dozens of industries took advantage of tax breaks to open operations in La Rioja. His opponents say the province is in an economic mess because of excessive public spending.

He and his wife led separate lives for some time because of his passion for motor rallying and high life in show business circles. They were reunited shortly before he won the Peronist presidential nomination.

"I'm a seducer, not a womaniser," Menem said in a recent interview when asked about his rakish ways. "I can't say I am a saint because I have no halo. Let's say I'm an ordinary man."

Menem was born in the town of Anillaco, near the city of La Rioja, on July 2, 1930. He obtained his law degree at the University of Cordoba in 1955. He has two teenage children.

Baker outfoxed but undaunted after Moscow trip

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State James Baker, a master at the public relations game, met his match last week when he was upstaged by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Baker, in office four months, is one of Washington's most successful politicians and is widely credited with putting George Bush in the White House.

But having moved from the national stage to the world stage, he is competing with a Soviet leader who repeatedly has proven his political acumen and his ability to throw the West and its leaders off guard.

"Gorbachev rolls Baker," trumpeted a headline in a major U.S. newspaper after the Kremlin chief surprised Baker on his first Moscow visit with proposals to reduce short-range nuclear forces (SNF) unilaterally in Europe and negotiate deep cuts in conventional forces.

That view may be exaggerated. But there is no question the Soviet leader once again showed he can dominate the East-West arms control debate at will.

Even President Bush's long-awaited speech on Friday outlining his administration's vision of U.S.-Soviet relations was dwarfed by Gorbachev's manoeuvre.

U.S. officials say they expected a new Gorbachev initiative, but one U.S. Soviet expert told Reuters this had been predicted to come when the Kremlin chief visits West Germany soon, not while Baker was his guest.

Although NATO agreed the SNF cut would affect only five per cent of the Soviet arsenal and was therefore militarily insignificant, the announcement heightened tensions within the alliance.

It bolstered West Germany and others who say the Soviet threat is diminishing and NATO should abandon plans to modernise Lance short-range missiles and negotiate cuts overall in SNF.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Saturday followed up Gorbachev's promised demilitarisation gesture with the threat that Moscow may develop new missiles or halt destruction of old ones if NATO upgrades the Lance.

Against this background, a NATO summit set for May 29-30 is increasingly likely to be marred

by the SNF dispute. U.S. officials say that given the circumstances, Baker handled the situation well.

He could have dismissed the SNF cut as militarily insignificant and berated Gorbachev for sinister motives, one official said.

Instead, he chose the more constructive option, highlighting the modest scope of the announced SNF cut, welcoming it and challenging Moscow to go further, the official said.

Baker allowed one flicker of pique to show through at a press conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Friday.

After admitting the SNF dispute with Bonn had not yet been resolved, despite a 45-minute meeting with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Baker declared it would be a "disaster... if we let politics

somehow endanger the security of the alliance."

U.S. officials accuse West German leaders of pressing the dispute for domestic political reasons.

NATO has long sought cuts in Soviet SNF, and in announcing his unilateral reduction of 500 nuclear missiles, bombs and artillery, Gorbachev is basically following the lead of the alliance, Baker insists.

Nevertheless, U.S. officials acknowledge feeling some pressure from critics who fault the Bush administration for not developing initiatives that respond to what many perceive as Gorbachev's bold gestures.

This is partly why Baker and Bush in recent weeks have declared their intent to "test Gorbachev's new thinking," one such diverse matters as Central America and terrorism.

Paraguay breathes fresh air of freedom

By Luis Mauro
Reuter

ASUNCION — Paraguayans are savouring the breeze of freedom that has swept the country since a military coup toppled dictator Alfredo Stroessner and ended 34 years of oppression.

Strikes, protest marches, press freedom and anti-government proclamations are part of Paraguay's new way of life.

"This is the moment to give way to the new ideas which are replacing the old political practices," student leader Esteban Alderete said.

Andres Rodriguez is responsible for the change. He led the February 3 uprising which forced his former mentor into exile in Brazil.

On Monday he will be sworn in as president, after winning the first democratic elections in Paraguay's history.

Domingo Laino, his main rival, was harassed, imprisoned and exiled for his opposition to Stroessner. Now Laino is second vice-president of the senate.

Paraguay's press, previously muzzled through official intervention or self-censorship, now crusades against public maladministration and calls for justice against those who benefited from the previous corrupt regime.

Around 30 former Stroessner aides, including four former cabinet ministers, are being investigated on charges ranging from embezzlement in misuse of public funds.

Marches supporting pay claims by employees of small and medium-sized businesses occur almost every day in the capital.

Organisations representing rural workers pressing for land rights have also sprung up in

recent weeks. Two days before the May 1 election, Rodriguez visited squatters to express sympathy for their occupation of a large farm.

"All these problems can be solved with a little patience because, thank God, there are no serious social problems in Paraguay," Economy Minister Enzo Debernardi said.

Paraguay's new-found democracy and improvements in international relations should also boost the economy.

Debernardi said industry had to modernise and cut costs with a view to taking part in a future South American common market.

This small, landlocked country of 3.7 million people hopes to reap benefits from joining the regional integration efforts of neighbouring Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

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Ballet in the Harlem ghetto

By Stephanie de Montvalon

NEW YORK — It's been 20 years since star ballet dancer Arthur Mitchell introduced New York's black ghetto of Harlem to classical dance. After rising through the ranks of the famed New York City Ballet, overcoming prejudice towards black dancers, Mitchell created his own school, in Harlem, and his own ballet company.

The Harlem Ballet company is now playing to a full house in Washington, D.C., at the Kennedy Centre, as part of a special 20-year anniversary celebration tour including performances in major U.S. cities — Boston, Atlanta, New Orleans, New York, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Chicago — a long way from their first performance at a ghetto theatre near 125th Street in New York.

Over the years the company of 40 dancers has won international acclaim throughout the world. Last year the Harlem Ballet company was the first American classical dance group to perform in the Soviet Union since the reactivation of cultural exchanges in 1985. In contrast to today's fame are memories of the ballet's first months in an obscure hangar of the blighted Harlem quarter. In going forward with the project

publicity-shy Mitchell was challenging himself, and the black community.

As a star dancer of the New York City Ballet run by George Balanchine, Mitchell had already demonstrated despite deep-rooted prejudice that being black was no barrier to becoming a classical dancer, but he wanted to go further. The murder of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 served as a catalyst: Mitchell wanted to show the world that New York's black ghetto had cultural riches and many talented youth who had never been given a chance to express themselves artistically.

When success and fame came to the Harlem school, it did not in any way alter Mitchell's purpose, on the contrary, the dancer neglected his own career as a choreographer to focus on the school's operation. It's through the school that the ballet company finds new talents it can nurture until the youths are officially chosen as performers.

The school's artistic director Nancy Schaffenburg admits readily that it would make things easier for the school to move to the heart of Manhattan where other ballet schools are located, but those who suggest it are missing the point, she says. In any case, the school's location at 466

W. 152nd St. does not deter scores of students from New York's other boroughs to attend classes. Some come from the Bronx, a drug-infested neighbourhood separated from Manhattan by the East River, some from Brooklyn, and even Staten Island. This year the school also attracted 16 foreign students from countries including Haiti, England, Denmark, Belgium and South Africa.

With Mitchell often busy on tours with the company, the Harlem school is being run by administrator Janice Robinson Hamm. She points out that the school wants to be open to all, which means that enrollment fees are kept lower than at most ballet schools. But even at a cost of \$80 for six months of classes (one hour a week), many families in the neighbourhood could not afford to send their children. The school is providing financial aid to about 95 per cent of the students enrolled, Janice says. The best students receiving professional training just before they join the ballet company can receive aid from the federal government, while businesses and private foundations give scholarships to other students. Janice recalled the case of a Harlem teenager without a home who was accepted without any fee.

"Dance could cure society of many ills," Nancy notes. It's a means of expressing one's personality at the same time that it strengthens the body and the mind. "Many teenagers on the way to becoming delinquents have no interests," she says, adding that if they can't find hobbies and occupations they like, some have to be suggested to them. Any art usually appeals to the young because it stimulates their imagination, Nancy adds. Art is a way for them to show what they can create and to build their self-esteem. And, of course, dance provides a physical outlet for extra energy. If you have a healthy body and if you like to move around, learning to dance comes easy, Nancy says.

The large number of theatre and television shows featuring dancers have inspired many youths, Janice says. One case in point is Lani Hest, 14, who attends dance classes at the Harlem Ballet school five times a week. She is now in the programme preparing for professional dancing and her ambition is to become a star ballerina. Her first day at the school seems like a long time ago — like most other students she was 3 when she started ballet classes — yet she remembers that it was her own decision to come, not her parents'. She used to love watching dancers on television and told her mother that there was nothing else that she wanted to do more.

Feeling good

After a few months, though, she was so disappointed because of her slow progress that she quit — only to come right back. Today she is given small parts in the ballets staged by the company. Dancing is a pleasure, but it's also hard work, as all students find out fast. They learn quite young that they must apply themselves with a lot of self-discipline and concentrate. "When I dance I feel good," Celina Cordoba, a 10-year-old student, comments.

According to Nancy, few schools have students as motivated as they are at the Harlem school. "Sometimes a teacher spends half of the time on discipline rather than dance," she says, "even with young professionals. But here people take the work very seriously." No doubt the atmosphere of comradery between teachers and students helps each person to give his or her



In the heart of New York's black ghetto a ballet school and company created by a former star of the New York City Ballet thrives, bringing some beauty and hope into the lives of neighbourhood kids.



Ballet-school administrator Janice Robinson Hamm, left, and Zelda Wynn look at a scrapbook of all the costumes Wynn has created for the ballet company over the past 20 years.



Jovonne Labrada, 21 and Edward Jenkins, 23, have been selected for special training in adult classes at the Harlem ballet school. If they do well enough they will then join the internationally famous Harlem Ballet Company.

best. Students never seem shy with the teachers, even during the classes "when there is no time to be kind," Nancy says. Looking at a class of older students who are all hoping to be selected by Mitchell to join the ballet company, she explains that competition does not generate animosity.

On Thursday afternoon children 6 to 12 years old gather in the school's largest studio for an hour and a half of hard training, their eyes always following the teacher. In a corner of the room Odilia Campbell and her piano provide the music, as they have done since the early 1970s. Following the students' movements with almost as much attention as the teacher, she goes from an adaptation of "Midnight Blue," to parts of "West Side Story" and then the more classic "Bolero" by Ravel.

Most of the students here that Thursday are girls, all with their hair up in a strict bun and wearing black body suits and flesh-col-

oured tights. According to Janice, many male students are also enrolled, more than in the average dance school. The Harlem school has built such a reputation, she says, that it is running out of space to accommodate students.

Many teenagers hope that the school will be the key to a bright future with Mitchell's company, but other students are here just for fun, Janice says. Programmes for children and adults who see dance as a hobby are offered; for example on Saturday afternoon parents can attend one class while their children spend their extra energy in another.

The school also schedules special classes for children attending public schools in New York, and it sends teachers to schools in poor neighbourhoods where some families don't even have a home. This type of community involvement also includes the school's students who organise performances in the public schools once a month. Raising young people's

consciousness about dance is also a task given to the ballet company: when it is on tour it presents special programmes at the local schools. It pioneered this type of social work by dance professionals and inspired other American ballet companies to reach out to young audiences.

Mitchell often explains to students how all dance forms are linked to classical ballet, which is a necessary base. His school applies the rigorous Russian technique of classical dance. If this art has changed over the centuries, it's partly because the physical characteristics of the dancers have evolved, Nancy explains. Today's dancers are stronger, they have longer muscles and they can be more athletic. The technique must have some flexibility to adapt to physical changes.

Although the Harlem Ballet company and school are proud of their classic tradition, they do offer lighter fare, like tap dancing, jazz dance and ethnic dancing as options. Those who want to

learn the art of making costumes, stagecraft or lighting will also be trained.

Its humble beginnings 20 years ago in the basement of a church did not prevent the Harlem Ballet to reach fame and entertain sophisticated audiences worldwide, but it is appreciated at home, also. In Harlem, "people are proud of what goes on at the school and they seem very protective. The street is probably the safest in this derelict quarter where drugs have taken a heavy toll."

Down in the basement Zelda Wynn has been in charge of costumes since the early days. She says she is too old to go on tours with the company anymore, but she is happy to stay at the school and watch the students, when she is not busy creating costumes for yet another production. They haven't changed much, she says with a smile, "except that they are getting better and better!" (World News Link).

London phone numbers

— a new thrill for snobs

By Ben Dobbin
The Associated Press

LONDON — London is about to dial into a new and divisive experience.

The capital is running out of telephone numbers, so from May Day 1990 it will be split in two, with separate area codes for the central and outlying areas.

In a country which still harbours a passion for carving the citizenry into classes, the split offers fresh potential for social one-upmanship.

Out will go the simple old 01 area code for London, to be replaced by 071 per subscribers within roughly 6.5 kilometres of Charing Cross, and 081 for the rest.

It will also spell the end of London's pre-eminence in Britain's telephonic pecking order. Stripped of its unique two-digit prefix, the capital will have to get in line behind Birmingham (021), Edinburgh (031), Glasgow (041), Liverpool (051) and Manchester (061).

Some Londoners may find it irksome to have to dial 10 digits to cross the divide, and snobs will probably have a field day.

"071 will be a superior number to have," declares Elsie Burch Donald, author of "Debut's Etiquette and Modern Manners." "Clearly there is an advantage socially, culturally, economically to be living in central London."

Like New York, which had to be divided into 212 and 718 dialing codes, London is running out of telephone numbers, especially since the rise of the fax, which sends documents over telephone lines.

The new codes will double London's telephone capacity to 10 million. Without the change, it would have run out of numbers next year, swamped by a 25 per cent upsurge in demand in the last four years, much of it in the centre.

British Telecom, the national telecommunications giant, has given the public a full year to adapt, and is spending tens of millions of pounds on the switch-over, including £1 million (\$1.65 million) just to publicise it.

But it isn't offering financial compensation for letterheads, signs and addresses on delivery trucks that will have to be changed.

Sign writers, copywriters, printers, decorators, telephone engineers look to be in for a busy year. Telephone-triggered burglar alarms will have to be adjusted too.

Some subscribers have suggested running the split along the Thames River, which divides the city into north and south.

But British Telecom opted for rings, partly because "people's geography gets pretty hazy outside central London," said spokesman Andrew Emerson.

For the confused, British Telecom will provide a free recorded message to set them straight.

The 071 code will be stretched to include the docklands, some 10 kilometres from the centre of London, which is being transformed from a wasteland of empty wharves and rusting warehouses into a bustling telecommunications centre.

The new codes will carve through communities like Hammersmith in west London, where some residents may have to dial 10 digits to phone across the street.

Instant status symbol

Phone numbers used to be instant status symbols, when the first three digits were represented by letters.

Reporting the latest change, the conservative Daily Telegraph wrote: "Telephone subscribers in London who mourned the loss of such emotive and colourful exchange names as the poetic Byron and MacCaulay and the stately noble, Froisher, express and Gulliver may be further alarmed to hear that British Telecom is hoping to scrap the 01 dialing prefix for London."

The letters system was scrapped 22 years ago, but numerical prefixes remain a status symbol.

"Even now a number tells a tale," says Catherine Alabaster, an estate agent in upmarket Knightsbridge. "235 is Belgrave, 730 is Sloane. A lot of people don't know it but there are smart numbers. There are always these nuances..."

She says the latest change will make little difference to her wealthy clientele, who "will only know London as 071. They won't look at the other zone — it will almost be as if it doesn't exist. They're not interested in fringes. In fact, they won't cross the river."



Unhygienic water is one of the main transfer media for malaria

High-flying war on malaria

By Dean Lokken
Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — The high-flying technology by which governments spy on each other's military forces is now being directed against one of mankind's most deadly enemies — malaria.

Using American and French satellites and a civilian version of the U-2 spy plane, scientists are developing a method of predicting where and when malaria-carrying mosquitoes will strike.

The war against the anopheles mosquito is a critical one. More than half the world's population lives in areas where the insects are found. World health experts expect more than 100 million new cases of the disease and some 1.5 million deaths from it this year alone.

American scientists are spearheading the high-tech war against the mosquito, and numerous foreign governments and international agencies, including the United Nations committee on the peaceful uses of outer space,

are watching its progress.

For the past four years, scientists have studied in minute detail aerial photos taken of about 100 rice fields in California's Sacramento Valley and correlated the fields' characteristics with the appearance of mosquitoes.

They now say they can predict — two months in advance and with greater than 83 per cent accuracy — the exact locations where anopheles mosquitoes will breed.

The precision is required because researchers long ago discovered that the insects, which carry the parasite that causes malaria, breed in limited areas.

Of 104 California rice fields studied, only 16 accounted for half the mosquito population.

Armed with that knowledge, the scientists think they can develop for every region of the globe infected with malaria — mainly those countries near the Equator — the means to predict and plan for mosquito infestations.

"We're talking in the first week

of May about what's going to happen in the latter part of July and August," Dr. Robert Wachino, one of the project's scientists, told the media recently. "Now that's real magic."

Wachino, an entomologist at the University of California and one of the world's leading experts on the anopheles mosquito, and his colleagues plan to start correlating the satellite and aircraft data with insecticide spraying in California this year.

A second phase of the fight against malaria has already been started in Mexico. A third phase, due to start some time in the 1990s, will be able to cover every country identified by the World Health Organisation as being at high risk for malaria.

Paul Sebasta, an ecologist and the project's manager, said: "We are able to mark on a map where we predict the high-producing fields will be located. They're going to be different each year because the farmers change their crops."

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'Situation is grim and dim'

Sudan's woes exacerbate

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's economy is going from bad to worse amid inflation, debt and crippling war costs as Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi starts his fourth year in power, diplomats said.

"The economic situation is grim and dim," said a senior Western diplomat in Africa's largest country.

Inflation has doubled to about 80 per cent since Mahdi came to power in May 1986 and looks set to rise as the government borrows to finance budget deficits, Khartoum-based Western economists said.

The Sudanese pound has slumped from an official 2.5 to the dollar in 1986 to 4.5 and was trading on the black market this week at more than 20 to the dollar.

In October the government introduced a parallel official rate of 12.2 pounds to the dollar, aiming to lure remittances from Sudanese working abroad into the banking system.

But economists said 80 per cent of remittances, which amount to

\$1 million a day, are still handled by the black market. Dealers are thriving despite numerous arrests, including 30 last week under emergency laws.

Khartoum's estimated four million people wrestle with acute shortages of fuel, sugar and bread, also widely traded on the black market.

"Nothing is in short supply in Khartoum if you are prepared to pay a fortune," said a Western diplomat.

The armed forces need an estimated \$1 million a day to keep at bay the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The six-year-old conflict prevents Sudan exploiting its only commercial oil find in the southern Nile region.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem said last week the war was partly responsible for in-

creased government borrowing from the central bank.

Economists said borrowing, which in effect meant printing money, had reached three billion pounds (\$670 million) since the current fiscal year began July 1.

Nour Al Dayem said the government also needed to borrow to pay for wage rises agreed in December at a cost of two billion pounds (\$450 million).

The government had planned to finance these with price and tax rises, but backed down in the face of a nationwide strike and street protests early this year.

Sudan, with a population of 25 million, has not fully serviced its foreign debt of nearly \$14 billion since the early 1980s.

"We are getting close to a situation like some Latin American countries," said the senior Western diplomat.

Several attempts by Mahdi to introduce economic reforms suggested by the International Monetary Fund have failed for political reasons.

Several major Western donors



Sadeq Al Mahdi

are considering limiting their assistance to Sudan to humanitarian aid, mostly to the famine-stricken population of the south, diplomats said.

The United Nations has said 100,000 people could starve to death this year unless food from international relief organisations continues to reach them.

Sudan's agricultural output, potentially one of the world's richest, was hit by floods and drought last year as well as war.

Jordanian, Argentine officials discuss trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Argentine cooperation in trade and economic fields was discussed at a meeting here Tuesday between the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Mohammad Asfour and Mr. Fares Eid president of the Arab-Argentine Chamber of Commerce.

The two sides also discussed matters related to Jordan's participation in a trade, industrial and cultural exhibition to be held by Arab countries in Buenos Aires early in September 1989.

Eid later said in a statement

that the exhibition, the first by the Arab World in Argentina, is designed to help bolster Arab-Argentine relations in industrial, commercial and cultural fields and to increase the volume of trade between the two sides.

Nearly three million people in Argentina are of Arab origin contributing actively towards the development of the country's economic, political, social and cultural life, Eid said.

He said the newly elected Argentine President Carlos Menem is of Arab origin, whose

parents emigrated to Argentina from Syria. His brother Edward is member of the Argentine senate and five governors in different provinces and five members of the senate are also of Arab origin while 15 members of the Argentine lower house of parliament are of Arab origin, Eid noted.

He added that this points to the importance of the Arab community in Argentina and its influence in the economic and social life of that country.

Eid said his current visit to Jordan was part of his tour of 12 Arab countries taking part in the

September exhibition. Asfour, for his part, briefed Eid on the types of products which Jordan plans to exhibit in Buenos Aires with the hope of opening the way for trade between the two countries.

Asfour said that a delegation representing the federation and the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Jordanian businessmen will represent Jordan at the exhibition to try to promote the sale of Jordanian products not only in Argentina but also in other countries of Latin America.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Specialists discuss Arab trade

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of specialists from Jordan and seven other Arab countries gathered at the Amman-based headquarters of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) to discuss different practical stages to enable Arab countries promote trade. Addressing the opening session was CAEU's Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim who expressed hope that the specialists will find ways to encourage trade among Arab states and help CAEU to contribute towards that goal. Ibrahim called on Arab states to implement the provisions of the Arab economic unity which aim to bolster trade links among Arab states. Delegates attending the meeting include Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Libya and Egypt.

IWC warns of rising wheat prices

LONDON (R) — Higher world wheat prices and a cut in handouts from major grain producers may squeeze the finances of poor nations dependent on wheat imports next year, the International Wheat Council (IWC) has said. The report by the IWC said wheat prices are on the rise while shipments of food aid are declining. "Many countries could experience severe difficulties in meeting the cost of commercial wheat imports," the IWC said. "Given the fact that nearly three-quarters of all wheat is imported by developing countries, this gives rise to considerable concern," it added. The IWC said food aid shipments to poor countries are set to decline an estimated two million tonnes in the year which ends in June, from the record 9.5 million tonnes in 1987-1988. This is because of improved food supplies in some low-income African countries, but also because of rising costs of providing aid. Early indications are food aid shipments could fall even further in 1989-1990, it said, without giving a figure.

Iran, Pakistan sign energy deals

DUBAI (R) — Iran and Pakistan have signed a series of deals in the oil sector, Iranian sources in the Gulf said. Pakistani Science and Technology Minister Jahangir Badar, who is also in charge of petroleum, agreed the deals with Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in Tehran, they said. They reported that Iran agreed to export 20,000 barrels of oil per day to Pakistan in exchange for textiles, aluminium, and other unspecified products. The deals also included construction of an oil refinery in Pakistan and joint oil drilling, the sources said. Aqazadeh would visit Pakistan in July to confirm details, they said.

Economist urges USSR to join FAO

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, which refused to join the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) when it was founded 44

years ago, should now become a member to benefit from its expertise, a Soviet economist has said. The Soviet Union needed to take advantage of the FAO's knowhow in agricultural management and technology, Mikhail Kobishanov, economist at the Institute of World Economics and International Relations, said. "The USSR's joining FAO would seem to be a necessity," he wrote in the latest edition of the weekly newspaper Moscow News. Introducing Kobishanov's article, Moscow News said that when the FAO was founded in 1945, Soviet delegates refused to sign the organisation's charter, saying imperialist powers intended to take key posts and use the FAO to their advantage. The Soviet Union has recently shown interest in joining several international economic organisations.

'Stop lecturing; clean environment'

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) environment chief has urged industrialised nations to stop lecturing the Third World about environmental protection and start doing something to ease the problem. "We will not improve the situation with sermons and wishful thinking," EC Commissioner Carlo Ripa Di Meana told reporters. "Consumer countries that have in the past financed deforestation cannot just... express perfectionist approaches. They have to be helpful in the field." A key group of developed nations earlier this month rejected a proposed fund to help Third World countries finance a world bank by the 2000 in industrial and household gases which are destroying the earth's protective ozone layer. Ripa Di Meana said he hoped the annual summit of industrialised countries in Paris on July 14 and a June meeting of EC leaders would take steps to transfer environment-friendly technology to developing countries and alleviate their debts.

W. German exports hit new record

WIESBADEN (R) — West Germany, Europe's largest economy, has reported record exports in March. The Federal Statistics Office said West Germany exported goods worth 55.15 billion marks (\$29.18 billion) in March, breaking the previous record set in December by 50 billion marks (\$26.5 billion). The government data showed the country's trade surplus in March rose to 12.8 billion marks (\$6.77 billion) from 11.4 billion (\$6 billion) in February. Last year France criticised these huge trade surpluses, saying the overshoot should be reinvested in European countries which imported most from West Germany. West Germany had a record trade surplus of 128 billion marks (\$68 billion) in 1988 and economists have forecast that this year it will rise to about 140 billion marks (\$74 billion).

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, May 16, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	82.1	83.0
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	382.1	386.3
Pound Sterling	883.3	893.4	Dutch guilder	246.2	248.8
Deutschemark	277.5	280.5	Swedish crown	82.1	83.0
Swiss franc	310.0	313.7	Italian lira (for 100)	38.2	38.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	132.6	134.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6435/45	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1870/80	Canadian dollar	
	1.9360/70	Deutschemarks	
	2.1820/30	Dutch guilders	
	1.7325/35	Swiss francs	
	40.53/54	Belgian francs	
	6.5430/80	French francs	
	1409/1410	Italian lire	
	136.80/90	Japanese yen	
	6.5450/5500	Swedish crowns	
	6.9990/7.000	Norwegian crowns	
	7.5350/5400	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	374.45/374.85	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Prices slipped on a government threat to tighten monetary policy unless the economy slowed. The All Ordinaries index lost 10.7 to 1,555.1.

TOKYO — Shares closed just off their highs, helped by index-linked buying by investment trusts and some financial institutions. The Nikkei index surged 210.16 to 33,926.45.

HONG KONG — Prices fell on reports of fresh student demonstrations in Peking during the Sino-Soviet summit. The Hang Seng index fell 20.14 to 3,289.50.

SINGAPORE — The market ended mixed but the Straits Times industrial index closed at a post-crash high of 1,303.48, up 8.08 points.

BOMBAY — Share prices finished lower after a quiet start, with activity slowing down considerably. One broker said the market was directionless after market leader Tata Steel was shifted to spot delivery list from forward trading. Associated Cement fell 9.5 rupees to 330.5.

FRANKFURT — Shares fell in thin trading as the strong dollar fed persistent fears of an increase in domestic interest rates. The DAX index fell 8.09 to 1,339.75.

ZURICH — Prices retreated from a firm opening to close slightly lower. Volume was small, with many investors staying on the sidelines. The all-share Swiss index fell 1.4 to 1,012.

PARIS — Prices shed their opening gains when fears of higher European interest rates started to outweigh early optimism that the United States might soon lower its rates.

LONDON — Share prices were generally weaker in extremely dull afternoon business after Wall Street opened lower on profit-taking. At 1433 GMT the FTSE index was down 10.5 at 2,139.4.

NEW YORK — Moderate profit-taking in morning business eroded the strong gains of the past two days. The Dow was down nine at 2,455.

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By Reuters

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Delgado wins 2nd Spain tour

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Pedro Delgado of Spain raced to his second Tour de Spain victory Monday, 35 seconds ahead of Colombian Oscar Vargas, who won the mountain climbing championship.

Jean Heidericks of Belgium outprinted Matthieu Hermans of the Netherlands and fellow Belgian Eddy Merckx to win the 177-kilometre (110 miles) from Palazuelo de Eresma to Madrid in four hours, 31 minutes and five seconds with an average speed of 39.176 kph.

But Heidericks' triumph paled next to that of Delgado, winner of last year's Tour de France and the 1985 Spanish "Vuelta," who won the grueling 22-day race by crossing the finish line in the same time as the Belgian rider.

Delgado topped the overall standings, 35 seconds ahead of Vargas and 3:09 ahead of Colombian Oscar Vargas, who won the mountain climbing championship.

Delgado will take home 2 million pesetas (\$17,400) in prize money.

Cheering crowds lined much of the route and thousands of fans stayed on Delgado with shouts of "¡Delgado, Delgado!" as he raced beneath the giant Roman aqueduct in his hometown of Segovia, four kilometres (2.5 miles) into the leg.



Globetrotters play Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The action-filled Harlem Globetrotters will be arriving in Jordan Thursday as

they continue their Arab tour. Their first stop will be the Intercontinental hotel, where they will give a press conference in the Jerusalem room. The arrival of these superstars has been made possible by Aramex, who are organizing the event, and Royal Jordanian. An autograph session has been arranged for basketball lovers on the Bahama Terrace of the Intercontinental hotel between 4.00 and 4.30 p.m. Thursday.

The Globetrotters are famous the world over for their unique style of play which combines hilarious showmanship with the highest level of basketball skills. "We have scouted the top ranked college teams from coast to coast to locate the cream of the crop," said head coach Charles Harrison. "This is an overpowering squad who really make things happen."

The Harlem Globetrotters will play an exhibition match at the Royal Sports City at 8 p.m. Thursday night.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR-SHARIF
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RUINED BY THE DOUBLE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 2
♥ A Q
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ 10 9 6 2

WEST
♠ Q 8 7 5
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ A 5
♣ A 5

EAST
♠ Void
♥ 9 8 5
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ K J 8 7 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 6 4 3
♥ A K J 4 3
♦ Q 2
♣ Q 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠. Beware of tipping your hand to declarer. On this deal from a national team championship, a West player who had represented the U.S. in international competition could not restrain himself—and suffered the consequences.

North was perhaps a trifle aggressive in the auction. In view of the partial misfit, a preference to two spades at his second turn might have been preferable, and certainly a pass of three spades would not have in-

voled anyone's ire. However, there was nothing wrong with the final contract—only the 5-0 trump split made it hazardous. Since West had no real expectation of beating four spades more than one trick, why he would double for a measly extra 100 points is beyond us.

Declarer won the heart opening lead in dummy. Had he had no help from the defenders, he would more than likely have taken a spade finesse at this point. Warned by the double that trumps were not lying well, declarer cashed the table's remaining high heart, then led the king of diamonds.

West took his minor-suit aces and continued with a club, which declarer ruffed. After cashing the diamond queen, he played off the king and jack of hearts. East's failure to ruff confirmed declarer's card-reading.

Both declarer and West were now down to nothing but five trumps each. A low spade toward the jack sealed West's fate. If he rose with the queen, declarer would be left with four winning trumps between his hand and dummy. But playing the seven proved no better. Dummy's jack won, and a trump, ducked to West, forced him to win and return a trump into declarer's A-K-10 tenace. So declarer lost only one trump trick and the minor-suit aces.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: When the Moon is void of course as it is today, plans can be disrupted and general disorganization can torment even the best routine. Look for practical jokers who may be out in force.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study a personal problem thoroughly before acting. Your status in a relationship becomes an important question.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Opposing views that become argumentative call for a cooling off period. Help comes in handling a family matter.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Keep creative juices surrounding a new project in a jar until Friday. Good timing brings matters to a successful conclusion.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) "Demis the Menace mentality" may surround you. Favorable business reports show a slow but steady advance.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A spirited discussion surrounds safety and financial guarantees. Search out insurance plans, but reserve your opinion.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Someone behind the scenes is working in your best interest. Watch financial transactions carefully and avoid mixups.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do not let others take liberties with you when you crave affection. Stick to your reliable flames, and don't start any new fires.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Emphasize what you mean, loud and clear, when trying to explain yourself. Examine the situation from another, softer point of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You run into people difficult to deal with. Some folks always seem to complain no matter how well you treat them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may get more done by being a hermit and working in a private space. You are unlikely to fit into someone else's formal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Set up a workable system for your expectations. Reconstruct your budget. Open your mouth and you show your heart.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) There are feelings today that cannot be put into words but will be understood by another in a mystical way. Follow your hunches.

If your child is born today, he or she will be simple, direct, understanding and strong. He or she will always be his or her own person, never pretending to be more than what you see. Expect your progeny to have a colorful social life with a multitude of friends and contacts.

British rugby unions allow players to tour S. Africa

New anti-apartheid row looms

LONDON (AP) — English players will be allowed to participate in South African rugby centennial celebrations in August but will be discouraged from going, rugby officials said Monday.

The decision, which follows similar moves in the last two weeks by rugby officials in Scotland and Wales, was denounced as "very irresponsible" by a leading anti-apartheid body.

"This has magnified the problem. We will have to consider protest action," said Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee. "We have to ensure that Britain loses influence in international sport."

Dudley Wood, secretary of the English Rugby Union, said at a news conference that any invita-

tions received for the South African tour will be passed on to the players.

Last summer, the rugby union refused to pass on invitations for English players to participate in a match in South Africa.

Wood said no invitations to the five celebratory games have yet been received, but said the rugby union "wishes to keep firmly to the government's own position over South Africa."

"This means that we would not allow teams to visit South Africa or to come from South Africa but, in common with many other

sports, we would not feel able to deny the right of an individual player to go," he said.

"If a player says he wants to go to South Africa to see for himself we do not feel, in a free society, that we have the right to say no, but we will not encourage him to go."

Ramsamy warned last week that an English decision to pass on the South African invitations could lead to international repercussions.

Such a move, he said, could harm Manchester's hopes of attracting the 1996 summer Olympics and could lead to some African nations boycotting the 1990 Commonwealth games in New Zealand.

In 1986, more than half the 58 eligible nations stayed away from

the Commonwealth games in Edinburgh, Scotland, to protest the British government's refusal to impose economic sanctions on South Africa.

After Monday's English Rugby Union announcement, Ramsamy said the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa would meet in July, "specifically on how to deal with this problem."

He said a boycott of the Commonwealth Games over the issue will depend on how many rugby players take up their invitations to South Africa.

"At this stage it is too early to say what action we will take because the tour does not yet exist," Ramsamy told the Associated Press. "All we are saying is we cannot rule out action at any level."

Life ban for footballer using drugs

NEW YORK (AP) — Stanley Wilson, the football player suspended for drug use on the eve of the championship Super Bowl game, was permanently banned from professional football in the United States Monday because of the continuing drug abuse problem.

The action to exile the Cincinnati Bengals running back from the National Football League amounts to a lifetime ban for the 27-year-old Wilson also missed the 1985 and 1987 seasons because of drug problems and is currently being treated at a Phoenix, Arizona clinic.

However, league spokesman Joe Browne said it is possible he could apply for reinstatement if he presents evidence of his rehabilitation.

"In view of Wilson's history, this permanent ban can't come as a surprise to him," Browne said. Under the NFL's drug policy, a player who fails a drug test once is not suspended but can be tested regularly. If he fails again, he is suspended for 30 days, a third failure means a permanent ban with the option to reapply for reinstatement after a year.

Africans may boycott.

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Tuesday threatened an African boycott of the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in January if British rugby teams go to South Africa.

The OAU statement followed Monday's announcement by the English Rugby Union that it would pass on to players any invitations to the South African rugby board's centenary in August, clearing the way for them to accept. Wales and Scotland had already taken this step.

The OAU said it would ask Britain to keep its rugby players from going to South Africa "should it want Africa not to boycott games in which England is participating, starting from next year's Commonwealth Games in New Zealand."

Black African states boycotted the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh over sporting links with South Africa.

The 51-member OAU said it viewed the British Rugby Union's stand as "a deliberate provocation to Africa" and "a betrayal of the whole of Africa and all anti-apartheid movements in the world."

It was not immediately clear from the OAU statement whether the boycott would be restricted to events between African and teams or whether it would include international events in which Britain was also competing.

African nations boycotted the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in protest against British sporting contacts with South Africa.

The OAU did not say how it would enforce an embargo. Earlier Tuesday, David Johnson, organizer of the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, said the rugby unions moves might affect those games. But he sought to play down fears of another boycott.

African nations take the stand that participating in sporting events with South African teams provides indirect support for the regime and for its apartheid policies.

The OAU has called for more extensive economic, political, cultural or sporting sanctions against South Africa.

Greece's bid for Olympics intensifies

ATHENS (R) — Greece Monday opened a major three-part exhibition, ranging from 2,500-year-old antiquities to modern art, to back its bid for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

Melina Mercouri, the film star turned Socialist Culture Minister, said the exhibition showed Greece could offer "above all her cultural wealth and her soul" to the games.

The 1996 Olympics mark the 100th anniversary since Greece's ancient games were revived in Athens.

The exhibition cost 120 million drachmas (\$750,000) and covers aspects of the Olympics from antiquity to the present under the theme "the spirit and the body." It runs until January.

"We make no attempt to hide the fact that the exhibition is part of our bid to host the 'Golden Olympics'," Mercouri said.

Fervent work was under way to prepare athletic facilities and the infrastructure to support the games but "Greece offers above all her cultural wealth and her soul. It is this the modern world so badly needs," Mercouri said.

Motorbike queen speeds ahead

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy (R) — Kitted out in yellow leathers and white crash helmet, nothing distinguishes Taru Rinne from the men in the fast and dangerous world of Grand Prix motorcycling.

But when the 20-year-old 125CC rider from Turku in Finland removes the helmet, the difference is obvious.

For pettily-built Rinne is the only woman professional on the distinctly male world championship circuit.

"I don't think I face any special problems as a woman and sometimes it can help off the track because men want to be gentlemen," Rinne said before the Italian Grand Prix.

"But in a race it's difficult to tell if I'm a man or a woman and nobody is going to make way for me just because I'm a girl," she said.

Rinne finished a respectable 19th out of 36 starters in Saturday's race at Misano Adriatico, her 11th Grand Prix.

"Of course, my dream is to win a race and go on to be world champion one day. I believe it's possible for women and I've already shown I can be as good as the men," she said.

Rinne's passion for speed began with amateur go-karting at the age of nine and has endured despite the injuries that come from hurtling around a crowded track on two wheels at 140 kph.

She crashed out of her first Grand Prix in Sweden in 1987 and is underfunded by accidents that have broken both collar bones and caused groin and knee injuries.

"When something is important you can't afford to be afraid," Rinne said, "and as long as I'm good and can get results this will be important to me."

Rinne won her first two world championship points with 14th place in last year's French Grand Prix and earned her first point this season when she rode her Honda to 15th place in the Spanish Grand Prix two weeks ago.

She currently races for an Italian team and says she may eventually try to compete on the heavier and more powerful 250CC and 500CC bikes if she does well at 125CC.

She also believes she may help attract more women to one of sport's most solidly male preserves.

"When I began 125 CC racing in Finland I was the only girl. Now there are two others," she said.

Rinne could even face female competition in her own class at world championship level next season.

Undine Kummer, a West German who combines motorcycling with a job as a dental technician, was contesting her third 80CC Grand Prix at Misano Adriatico and hopes to progress to 125CC racing.

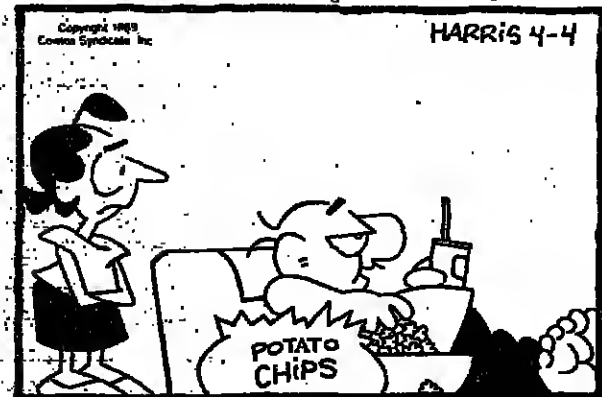
"My objective is to become a professional rider. I hope to find enough sponsors to buy a 125 CC bike and compete in the world championship next year," Kummer said.

Rinne competes in the winter in motorcross events and Finnish ice speedway and has the support of her parents to continue motorcycling at top level.

"My father used to be keen on amateur motor racing and that's maybe where I get my interest from," Rinne said.

THE BETTER HALF.

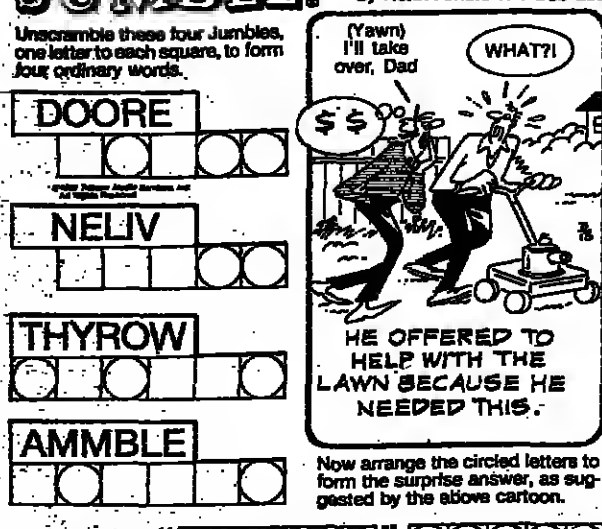
By Harris



"My blood pressure is 125/975. Other than that, I'm in perfect health!"

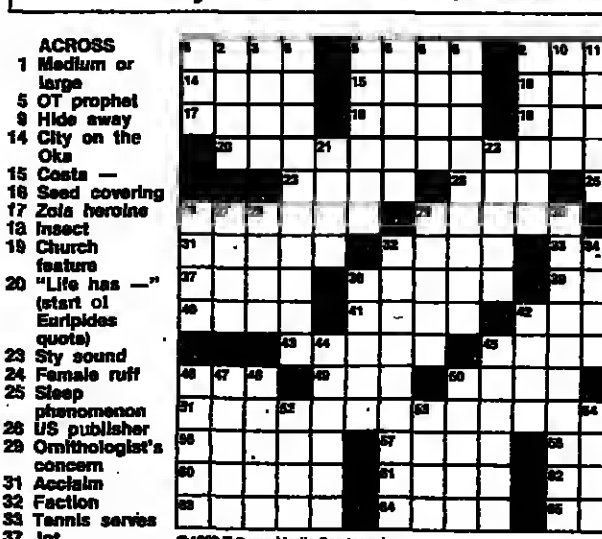
JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here: "DOORE NELIV THYROW AMMBLE"

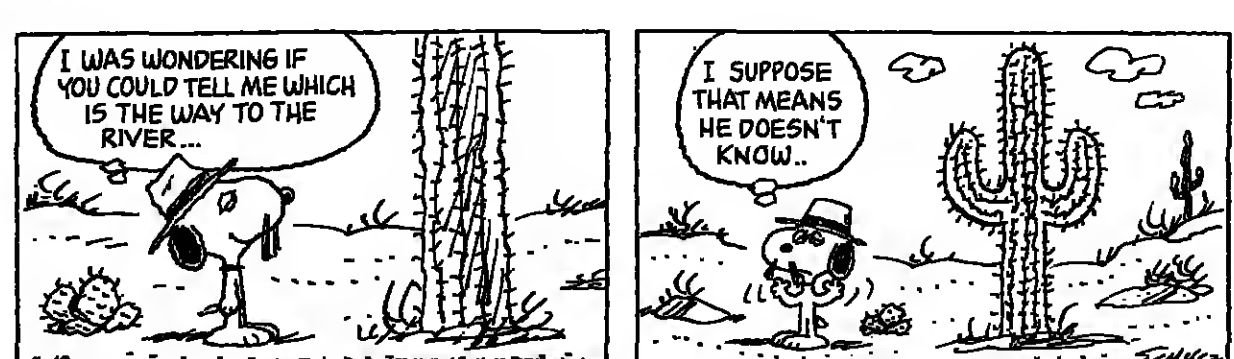
THE Daily Crossword by Donald S. Groot



1 Across
2 Down
3 Across
4 Down
5 Across
6 Down
7 Across
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11 Across
12 Down
13 Across
14 Down
15 Across
16 Down
17 Across
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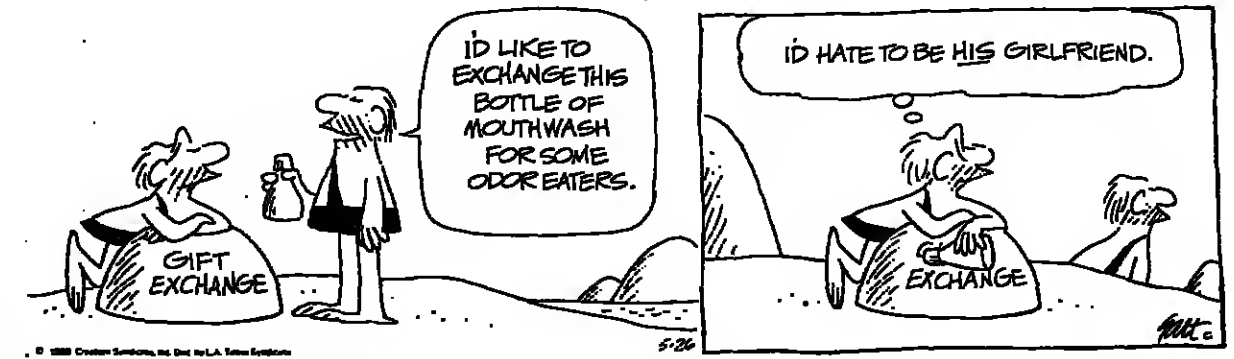
4 Develops detail
5 Silvery
6 Russia, city
7 Edible tubers
8 Bitingly humorous
9 Exhibited
10 Swiss canton
11 In motion
12 Establish a
13 Seraglio
14 Catalog
15 Nonsense
16 Chopped
17 Pining nymph
18 Came to earth
19 Southern beauty
20 Cal. city
21 Certain Red
22 Fling
23 Bacchanalian cry
24 Conway
25 Cognizant
26 Eng. explorer
27 Types
28 Hot sauce
29 the beans
30 Oregon for one
31 Burns' river
32 Good
33 Fragrant defense
34 Approach
35 Computer meal
36 Chum

Peanuts



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



Andy Capp





American marines walk by a C-130 transport plane after arriving at Howard Airbase in Panama as part of the beefing up that U.S.

President George Bush ordered in the wake of last week's controversial elections in Panama

Panama opposition pins hopes on military to oust Noriega

PANAMA CITY (AP) — An opposition leader says he hopes the Panamanian military could help solve the political crisis triggered by a nullified presidential election and violence related to the balloting.

"I believe the independence of a growing number of military will be a contribution to the solution," said Ricardo Arias Calderon, opposition candidate for first vice president in the May 7 election.

Many in the opposition have advocated the overthrow or departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's de facto leader and chief of Panama's defence forces.

"We have allies within the military, people who want a change. I personally do not view the military as enemies," Arias Calderon said Monday.

The government stopped the vote count on May 10 and nullified the election, claiming a 2-1 edge for its candidate, Carlos Duque, hand-picked by Noriega.

But figures from opposition poll watchers gave opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidential candidates, Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, an edge of about 3-1.

The three were beaten at a rally Wednesday. Hospital officials said Endara, the only one hospitalised, probably would be released by Wednesday.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, left in protest Monday over the voided election, recalled for consultations by President George Bush.

Davis said attacks by pipe-wielding thugs at a rally Wednesday were aimed at Ford, the candidate for second vice president. "The attack was meant to kill him," Davis said before flying to Washington.

He called the attack "a deliberate, Noriega-directed attempt" and said, "There is clear evidence Noriega's goons did it."

On arrival near Washington, Davis told reporters a tug belonging to a so-called "Dignity Battalion" leaned into Ford's car at the rally and "fired away" with a pistol.

One of Ford's bodyguards was slain.

Asked about the link between

the Dignity Battalion and Noriega, Davis replied: "Well, they're his men... the Dignity Battalion is under his control."

Ford told journalists in Panama: "There's no doubt in my mind that they really tried to shoot me." But he said he had not received information indicating any one person ordered it done.

Meanwhile, the opposition has called for a one-day general strike for Wednesday to protest the voiding of the election. In an apparent attempt to derail it, the government announced that 140,000 public employees would be paid that day. Normally, it would have been Monday.

Davis, who turned control of the U.S. embassy over to a deputy chief, said he would return "when conditions permit the re-establishment of normal relations between the United States and a legitimate government in Panama."

Davis said it may be up to Panamanian military to get rid of Noriega. He declined to say whether he would recommend direct U.S. military intervention if diplomatic efforts or elements within the defence forces did not oust Noriega.

Over the weekend the United States flew an additional 1,881 troops to the area of the Panama Canal, where some 11,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed along the strategic waterway linking the Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean.

Davis said he hoped a special meeting of the Organisation of American States, OAS set for Wednesday in Washington, would insist the results of the elections be honoured.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez offered Noriega asylum in his country and dismissed the possibility of any military action to oust Noriega.

"Gen. Noriega has not asked us for asylum, but if that is the solution for Panama, then Venezuela will open its doors," Perez said in Caracas.

In Asuncion, Paraguay, six Latin American foreign ministers discussed the situation in Panama and said they agreed Monday that non-intervention was the best policy.

Panama was one of the topics raised during meetings of foreign ministers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela attending the inauguration of Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez.

Seoul slams Washington for 'meddling' in its affairs

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea warned Washington Tuesday not to comment on its internal affairs and said remarks by a U.S. official on the mysterious death of a radical student could harm relations.

The warning came as the Seoul government put riot police on nationwide alert Tuesday to prepare for possible protests this week over the student's death and the ninth anniversary of a 1980 anti-government uprising in which scores of people were killed or injured.

About 300 radical students calling for the overthrow of President Roh Tae-woo battled riot police with firebombs and rocks at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul. Troopers with interlocked shields blocked the school's main gate to stop students from marching into the streets.

A Foreign Ministry official, who declined to be named in keeping with official practice, said a U.S. State Department official's

comments on the death of radical student Lee Chol-Kyu were unacceptable and incorrect.

"Unnecessary (American) comment on internal matters, particularly on a situation in which it does not know the truth, would not be of help to the U.S.-Korea alliance or friendly relations," the official said.

South Korean dissidents claim Lee was tortured and killed by police and reject a government autopsy report that he drowned. The body was found last Wednesday in a reservoir outside the southeastern city of Kwangju.

South Korea protested to Washington after a U.S. State Department official last week called Lee's death "a deplorable event," and said, "we do not know who may have committed this atrocious act." He noted South Korean President Roh had called for a full investigation of the case "and we hope the murderers will be exposed and severely punished."

South Korea lodged a protest in Washington over the statement, contending it had not been proved that Lee was murdered. The State Department said Monday it did not intend to prejudice how Lee was killed.

The Foreign Ministry said Tuesday it accepted the State Department's Monday comment as "a practical correction" of the reference to "murderers" even though it was not specifically retracted by the department.

South Korea and the United States are close allies. Some 43,000 U.S. troops are based in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty.

Thousands of people have held daily protests in Kwangju to denounce police for Lee's death. Clashes have broken out between protesters trying to march to provincial government headquarters and truncheon-wielding troopers.

South Korea has been hit by a wave of violent protests and labour strikes in recent months.

Walesa dons folk garb, urges farmers to vote

RACLAWICE, Poland (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, stumping for the opposition in the countryside Monday, used the site of a famous peasant uprising against Russia to urge farmers to vote for his candidates to the national assembly next month.

The Solidarity chief donned a folk costume with a feathered cap, but laid down a proffered weapon when speaking to 5,000 rural residents on Pentecost Monday, a traditional farmers' holiday.

"Don't stand aside," Walesa told the crowd, referring to plans by some Poles to boycott the elections. "Poland belongs to you and you have to make it better."

It was the latest campaign swing by Walesa in Solidarity's fight to elect its slate to the National Assembly in elections June 4, the first democratic voting in postwar Poland.

With only 19 days until the vote, Walesa is a much-sought guest speaker by candidates for the Solidarity Citizens Committee — the group he set up to direct the opposition's campaign.

The crowd spread out over the grass and up a steep copse at the Racławice battlefield near Krakow in southern Poland, where peasant legions armed with scythes and commanded by Tadeusz Kosciuszko defeated a Czarist army in 1794.

Likening Walesa to Kosciuszko, a hero of both the American revolutionary war and the 1794 uprising against Russia, activists at the rally conferred on him the honorary title "commander" — the same title used by Kosciuszko during the uprising.

Wearing a long white embroidered jacket and a four-cornered red hat with an enormous



Lech Walesa

peacock feather, Walesa arrived at the rally in an open horse-drawn carriage. Walking ahead of him were similarly dressed farmers carrying long-handled scythes like pikes.

Walesa also held a scythe during his ride, but when he mounted the speaker's platform he laid it aside.

"I am putting down the scythe so we can talk in a peaceful way," he said.

"Sometimes you had to take up scythes, and sometimes, like today, you have to turn the scythes into votes," he said. "Those votes are just as essential for Poland."

At stake are 161 seats for which the opposition is allowed to run in the Sejm, the existing 460-seat parliament, and 100 seats in the

Senate, a new body to be the East Bloc's first totally democratically chosen legislative chamber.

Leaflets at the rally accused Walesa of aiding the government and urged a boycott. But the Solidarity leader was interrupted with applause when he faced such charges head on.

"It cannot be said that Walesa was bought by the government... I wasn't sold to anybody," he said. "But I cannot always clench a knife between my teeth and chase the government, because it wouldn't be nice."

He told people to support Solidarity-backed candidates, and also to look at the candidates for the 65 per cent of the Sejm being contested by people from the Communist Party and its allies.

Namibia talks adjourn

RUACANA, Angola (AP) — Cuban, Angolan and South African delegates reached no conclusion Tuesday in discussions of delays in the Namibian independence timetable, and will meet again this week, a South African general told reporters.

Representatives of the three nations, along with U.S. and Soviet observers, met for 15 hours from 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) Monday at a site 600 metres north of the Namibian border and near Ruacana town. General Janie Geldenhuys, the South African military chief, said the talks will resume Friday at an Angolan location to be announced.

The meeting of the joint commission, which monitors a U.N.-sponsored independence plan, had been seen as crucial to the schedule to make Namibia free of

South African control next year. "We have not terminated our discussions," Geldenhuys said. He said delegates would consult their governments before meeting again.

South Africa agreed in December to end its 74-year control of Namibia, also known as South West Africa, under a regional peace plan that also requires Cuba to withdraw its estimated 50,000 soldiers from Angola. The Cubans have aided the Angolan government against a United States-supported rebel movement.

The year-long transition to independence was derailed April 1, the day it began, when an estimated 1,600 exiled guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) entered Namibia, despite an agreement

that they remain at their Angolan bases at least until mid-May. South African officials say 316 guerrillas and 27 members of security forces were killed in fighting before SWAPO ordered its men to return to Angola.

At the meeting with Cubans and Angolans Monday, South Africa reportedly questioned whether the delegates could be sure that all guerrillas have withdrawn. South Africa has said the independence process could be endangered if significant numbers of SWAPO fighters remained outside camps in Angola.

Geldenhuys said, "that is still under discussion and will be pursued Friday."

South African soldiers who had aided police in fighting the guerrillas returned to their bases in Namibia Saturday.

Cave dweller breaks record for isolation

CARLSBAD, New Mexico (R) — After four months of living underground, Stefania Follini has lost her sense of time, but she has made a paper chess set and occupied herself with music and judo.

Follini, 27, a native of Ancona, Italy, has been living in a plexiglass habitat 10 metres underground since Jan. 13, providing data on the effects of isolation on humans.

Because Follini has been deprived of all external sensory cues and is living in permanent artificial light, she is living a 34-hour "day."

She is awake for as long as 24 hours at a time and asleep for 10, scientific observers said. As a result she has lost track of time, believing the date to be several weeks behind the calendar.

For instance when asked by

computer in early March to guess the date, she thought it to be early February.

U.S. space officials are monitoring the experiment, hoping to gain insights that will help space travellers cope on long missions.

Since she entered the 63 metres lost cave she has not spoken to another person. On May 4 she set a new women's record for the most time in a cave without outside contact.

Her only contact with others has been through a computer link to the surface where a team headed by sociologist Maurizio Montalbini has maintained a round-the-clock vigil in a research trailer.

Looking for creative ways to pass the time, Follini, who has a background in interior decorating, has fashioned various items

out of paper, among them a complete chess set.

"She was playing against herself and she complained because she was always losing," said Rita Franchini, translator for a research team studying the effects of isolation on humans.

She has a guitar and 400 books and has been practising Judo to stay in shape.

In the initial weeks of her isolation, Follini seemed mildly depressed, Franchini said.

More recently her mood and concentration have improved. Just last week, she posed for the cameras wearing a top hat and holding a cane she had made from construction paper.

Follini, who has already surpassed the 111-day women's record for isolation, will emerge from underground May 23.

Papandreou expects landslide victory

ATHENS (R) — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou said Monday his extramarital affair and a major bank scandal would not top him scoring a landslide victory in elections in June.

The 70-year-old premier told the Athens daily Ta Nea that the problems besetting his Socialist government had created a "climate of defeatism, which is a catching disease."

"Everything entered a period of doubt and uncertainty. For a while a large number of friends and followers of PASOK (his Panhellenic Socialist Movement) entered the statistical category of 'undecided,'" he said in a rare interview.

But he said he now expected to win more than 48 per cent of the vote June 18 and secure an absolute majority in parliament. He won absolute majorities in 1981 and 1985.

Papandreou, who had open-

heart surgery in London in August, has been in a fight for his political life since his affair with Dimitra Liani, 34, was made public and a \$200-million bank scandal broke in October.

The latest opinion poll, published Monday, shows PASOK trailing the main opposition, centre-right New Democracy Party but indicates many voters remain undecided.

New Democracy has 32 per cent. PASOK 25, a communist-backed leftist alliance 12, undecided 15 and not answering 12. Small parties make up the rest in the nation-wide poll in independent Eleftherotyia newspaper.

Papandreou said some newspapers covered his love affair and the bank scandal, in which socialist appointees have been charged, in a shameful and vulgar way.

"When one read about the prime minister of the country in newspaper headlines as 'the



Andreas Papandreou

swindler and the tart', it was difficult to stay calm," he said.

He said making public the affair with Liani, an Olympic Airways stewardess, would affect his political fortunes.

"I knew there would be a price to pay, but it was not just an ephemeral affair. It was a deep relationship. It was a way of life I had chosen. This I wanted the Greek people to know," he said.

20,000 win U.S. 'visa lottery'

MERRIFIELD, Virginia (AP) — An unmarried Pakistani man, an Iranian mother living in West Germany and a bachelor from Kuwait were announced Monday as among the 20,000 winners of the State Department's first "visa lottery" granting random entry into the United States.

The lucky winners were chosen by computer from among 3.2 million foreign applicants for U.S. immigrant visas last March.

Opening the first envelope selected at random from files cabinets stored in a Washington suburb, Congressman Howard L. Berman said the winner was a 36-year-old man without wife or children from the Pakistani village of Khazana. The Pakistani embassy said there are two villages named Khazana, both in the northwest frontier province near the Afghanistan border.

The second envelope opened by Berman yielded the application form of a 45-year-old woman from Iran, now living in West Germany with her only child. The third winner was identified as a single, 27-year-old Kuwaiti man.

The winners' names will be kept secret until they are officially notified by the nearest U.S. diplomatic post in their home countries. The process could take several months, officials said.

"If they haven't heard by October, they should know they haven't been selected," said Frances Jones of the State Department's Consular Affairs Office.

Visas for the 20,000 winners will be effective over the next two years. 10,000 for entry in the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1 and the remaining 10,000 in fiscal 1991, which starts Oct. 1, 1990.

Notice of the visa lottery, which was relayed to citizens of 162 foreign countries by radio, television, newspaper and even messengers riding outrigger canoes, touched off near-riots at some U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, from Senegal to Sicily and Morocco to Malaysia.

In Cairo, the embassy was forced to shut down and police were summoned to handle a crowd of 2,000 people seeking visa information. The embassy in Dacca, Bangladesh, reported that everyone from university professors to rickshaw drivers inquired about applying. Officials in Casablanca, Morocco, distributed 5,000 information sheets in three days.

Berman was a sponsor of legislation that created the visa lottery last fall, said the overwhelming response during the month-long application period in March.



Five alleged members of a voodoo cult linked to the murder of 15 people in northern Mexico stand before voodoo paraphernalia at a news conference held immediately after their arrest in May 8. (From left to right) Mario Del Rocio Cuevas Guerra, Alvaro de Leon, Omar Francisco Ochoa, Maria de Lourdes Bueno Lopez and Sara Maria Aldrete Villareal

Five indicted in cult slayings

MEXICO CITY (AP) — One woman and four men reputedly linked to a macabre series of drug cult slayings were indicted Monday and ordered to stand trial for murder and related charges.

Penal court judge Bernardo Tirado Gutierrez ordered the five to remain in jail without bond: Sara Aldrete Villareal, Omar Francisco Ochoa, Alvaro de Leon Valdez, Juan Carlos Fragozo and Jorge Montes.

Court clerk Marco Aurelio Camacho said all five were charged with homicide, two counts of criminal association, coverage and resisting arrest.

Murder carries a 50-year sentence in Mexico.

Aldrete, 24, and her Cuban-American boyfriend, Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, had been sought since Mexican police discovered the first of 15 bodies buried on a ranch outside Tamaulipas, near the U.S. border.

Aldrete has testified that some were ritual sacrifices and others drug-related. One of the sacrificial victims was Mark Kilroy, 21, a university student from Santa Fe, Texas.

Aldrete, de Leon Valdez and Ochoa were arrested May 6 in a Mexico city apartment after a shootout with police that wounded one officer.

As police closed in on the apartment, the 26-year-old Con-

stanzo ordered a companion to execute him and his closest associate, Martin Quintana Rodriguez. De Leon Valdez has told authorities he shot them to death with a machine gun.

Aldrete and Ochoa were indicted Monday in those two deaths while Ochoa, Fragozo and Montes were charged with the slaying of Mexico City resident Ramon Biez. Camacho said in a telephone interview.

Biez was killed in his apartment July 17 and his dismembered body was found later by police, according to preliminary evidence introduced in court.

All five faced a variety of additional charges.

COLUMN

Bush officially is a millionaire

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush said officially Monday what most people have believed for a long time — he's a millionaire. In his annual financial disclosure statement, Bush said his blind trust was valued at \$998,000 Dec. 31, 1988, and he listed other assets of nearly \$97,000. Bush reported \$156,000 in income from the trust in 1988. The disclosure statement, required by law, did not include his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine, or an unimproved lot in Houston. The statement provided more details than required by current law, but ethics legislation sent to congress by Bush earlier this year said financial statements should be more specific. The White House said the president voluntarily provided extra information to set a good example. Bush could have reported the value of his trust as "over \$250,000." His ethics bill proposes the disclosure of the actual value of financial assets, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. The report also showed that the president and his wife, Barbara, received \$21,000 worth of gifts valued at \$100 or more. They included a \$7,800 gold watch presented to Mrs. Bush by "The Ladies of the Senate Red Cross Chapter" in recognition of her service as president of the group from 1981 to 1988.

Australian has 25-cm baby

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian woman has given birth to a baby measuring 25 centimetres, doctors at a Sydney hospital said Tuesday. "She looked like a little golf ball with eyes," said baby Nicole's fisherman father Ray Faunce. Nicole was born to Jenny Faunce 11 weeks premature April 23. The baby was delivered by a caesarean section after she stopped growing in the womb and has been in an intensive care ward surviving day-to-day in a respirator. Nicole weighed 380 grammes.

Hair stylist finds success after losing eyesight

MIAMI (AP) — Dave Melancon lost his sight in a 1986 home accident that should have ended his 10-year career as a hair stylist. "But I'm headstrong and very independent," Melancon recalled at an Eye for Hair, the salon he opened in March. Melancon, 40, was blinded after falling onto a metal sculpture he was making. But two former customers convinced him he could still cut hair. "They called me and said nobody cut their hair like I had and wanted me to try," he said. "They came to my home and it came out all right." Melancon won a \$35,000 grant from the state to go into business. He has six sighted hairdressers working for him and about 10 regular customers for himself. "I feel from the scalp to the end of the hair and listen to the scissors." My hearing and sense of touch are more acute now. I'm not scissor-happy."

Pakistani police told reduce waistline

ISLAMABAD (R) — Policemen in Pakistan's capital Islamabad were ordered Monday to tighten their belts or make way for thinner officers. Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has asked their police chief to "obtain waistline measurements of all police personnel and those exceeding 34 inches (85 cm) might be given six weeks to reduce and smarten up, failing which they should be replaced by smarter officials." A government statement said Aitzaz had just paid a surprise visit to an Islamabad police station and had taken "serious note of the unimpressive, corpulent, unsmart and sloppy officials."

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	08	16	13 64 Clear
ATHENS	16	61	30 88 Clear
BAHRAIN	26	79	35 95 Clear
BANGKOK	28	75	34 93 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	11	51	18 60 Rain
CAIRO	19	66	35 95 Clear
CHICAGO	07	45	20 68 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	11	52	19 68 Clear
FRANKFURT	06	48	20 68 Clear
GENEVA	07	45	17 63 Clear
HONG KONG	22	72	25 79 Clear
ISTANBUL	15	61	20 68 Cloudy
LONDON	12	53	21 70 Clear
LOS ANGELES	15	59	16 64 Clear
MADRID	11	52	26 79 Clear
MECCA	24	76	41 105 Clear
MIAMI	24	76	29 84 Cloudy
MONTREAL	08	48	23 73 Cloudy
MOSCOW	08	49	20 68 Clear
NEW DELHI	24	75	42 107 Clear
NEW YORK	13	56	23 73 Cloudy
PARIS	11	52	22 72 Clear
ROME	14	57	21 70 Cloudy
SEOUL	44	57	22 72 Clear
VIENNA	11	52	13 65 Clear